

tion took us on some of his fine trips, without the discomfort and fatigue, which must have been incurred in getting there. All were made light of by the Professor, in the joy of adding rare species to his already fine collection in the Christchurch

Museum. The lectures have been well attended on the whole, and show a marked improvement in attendance and interest, which is most encouraging, especially to those who give up their time to address the nurses.

## Correspondence

To the Editor.

Dear Miss Maclean—

I was delighted to find "KAI TIAKI" awaiting me when I returned from a case some time ago, and am looking forward to the next number. I am at present private nursing and receiving 35 dollars for ordinary cases and 40 dollars for infectious. There is a terrible scarcity of nurses, and it is very hard to get a rest in between cases. There is no nurses' club here, but I have joined a registry for nurses, which has on its books 100 graduate nurses, and about the same number of half-trained women—called "practical" nurses, who are willing to help with the housework—also about 100 Y.W.C.A. girls who have three months training in the hospital and a course of ten classes' after which they can ask about 20 dollars a week. There is no registry for trained nurses only. Most of the girls get a room wherever they can; I know of three who rent a small room for 42 dollars a month, which at the present rate of exchange is about £10.

On twelve hour "special" duty the hospitals provide three meals a day but no bed, so we must have somewhere to sleep. The graduate nurses' uniform is a white coat frock with belt, and each wears the cap of her own training school. The pupil nurses, coloured dresses and aprons, with mostly low collars and cuffs above the elbows, so that there is no rolling up of sleeves.

I was astonished to see so many hospitals where twelve-hour duty is still done, with two hours off. It seems impossible to get girls to go in for nursing here. There was an article in the "New York Times" recently saying that America was 50,000

nurses short, and suggesting hospital attendants. The length of training is three years, and in some places two and a half years, and the nurses do very little but the actual nursing as there is lots of coloured labour here. They also get their maternity in this time. I am starting a post-graduate course at "Sloane Hospital for Women" in New York, on August 1st. It consists of two months obstetrics and the same of gynecology, so I shall be having an interesting time. I also intend to go in for the New York State examination, so that I can register and practise in that State.

I have heard from my three class mates since I arrived, all of whom started out West. Miss Annie Piekins is in a hospital in Wisconsin doing X-ray work and giving anæsthetics. Miss Muriel Harvey has charge of the operating room in a twenty-bed private hospital at Brooklyn, N.Y., and Miss Erica Green is doing night duty at Middletown, twenty-five miles from here. All nurses here are addressed as "Miss" from the Superintendent down to the probationer. The climate of New Haven is very cold and damp in winter, with plenty of snow and frost; in summer it is intensely hot.

The most prevalent illness here is pneumonia, and I wonder anyone escapes it. The houses, hospitals and stores are terribly over-heated, often 80 degrees and outside it may be zero. Still I expect one gets used to these things, and America is after all a wonderful place—there is a chance for everyone. Hoping this will be of some interest to you, I remain—

Yours Sincerely,

G. M. Y.