
LONGYEAR FOUNDATION

Quarterly News

SUMMER, 1965

Respite

Let us pause awhile
Here under this star,
The earth invites us,
The goal is far.
Let us partake of beauty
Now while we may,
It will refresh us:
The brief delay.

LeBaron Cooke
from *Poems*

Exhibitions

Special Exhibition Gallery:

THE PRINTED WORD — Portraits and photographs of editors, publishers, and others who assisted in the publication of books by Mary Baker Eddy and periodicals established by her, together with some early editions.

Gallery 2: CONCISE OUTLINE OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MOVEMENT, from the discovery to 1910.

(Cabinet) — Snapshot of Mrs. Eddy made by Calvin A. Frye at Chestnut Hill and later used as the basis of the portrait by Bethuel Moore, now at the Chestnut Hill home.

Rotunda: MRS. EDDY AT HOME AT CHESTNUT HILL — a photographic exhibition.

Gallery 6: BIBLES AND DOCUMENTS together with furniture and objects of daily use associated with Mrs. Eddy in her early years.

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First Members (Part 2)

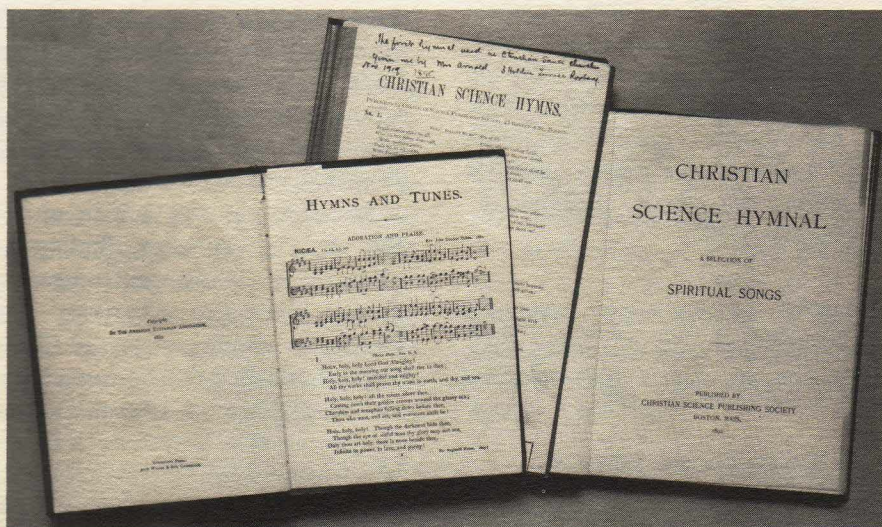
IN THE EARLY YEARS of their existence, the First Members held regular business meetings quarterly, on Saturday before Communion Sunday, and often called special meetings. They passed on candidates for church membership, attended to the transaction of any church business that properly came before the meeting, fixed the salaries of the Readers, and discussed any important questions relative to church members. They could take any necessary disciplinary measures against members, including teachers. Candidates for church membership were elected by a majority vote of the First Members in attendance. Seven made up a quorum. The names of the newly elected members were read at the Communion service on the following day. By a rule in the Manual, First Members were not allowed to report what was said or done at a church meeting, nor the Directors to speak of discussions in their conference with the Pastor Emeritus.

In the early years of the Church the First Members numbered 40. This was increased to 50 in 1896 and thereafter to 100, with 40 a required minimum. New First Members were elected with great care, at first by a majority vote of the existing First Members. Later, in 1898, a Manual By-Law required them to be unanimously elected, with ab-

sentee Members directed to send a vote in writing. From 1899, any proposed First Member must be approved by the Pastor Emeritus and confirmed by unanimous vote of all First Members. In 1894, three First Members were elected; 5 in 1895; 2 in 1896; 6 in 1897; 8 in 1898; 2 in 1899; 33 in 1901; 4 in 1902; 5 in 1903; 1 in 1905 and 2 in 1906. Five Honorary First Members from England were elected in 1903, the only Members living outside a radius of 500 miles of Boston, a residential limitation for all other First Members, to facilitate attendance at meetings.

The quarterly meetings were discontinued in 1896 and from January 1897 First Members met semi-annually to 1901, corresponding to the times of Communion. Thereafter they met only once a year on Saturday preceding Communion Sunday in June. As these meetings became less frequent over the years, Mrs. Eddy more and more shifted responsibility for decisions to the Board of Directors. At her direction the government of the Church passed entirely to the Board of Directors in 1901. (Church Manual, 20th Ed., 1901) The church membership was ready for this move, and so were the Directors — so wisely had Mrs. Eddy wrought this transition.

The title of First Members was



THREE HYMNALS: *Hymn and Tune Book* (American Unitarian Association, 1880) was the first hymnal used by the Church of Christ, Scientist. *Christian Science Hymns* (without music) 1890, was used with the *Hymn and Tune Book*, and in 1892 the first *Christian Science Hymnal* replaced them.

changed in 1903 to that of Executive Members, continuing as such until 1908 when the group voluntarily dissolved at the suggestion of Mrs. Eddy. Since 1898 all Readers had been drawn from this group.

With the dissolution of this body, then largely honorary, the organization of the Church was fulfilled.

Since 1892, this body of faithful Christian Scientists had served under Mrs. Eddy's guidance as a valuable transition group, preparing the church membership as well as the Board of Directors for church government under the Manual. Simultaneously, the Church Manual had been brought to completion by Mrs. Eddy who, during these years, turned wholly to God to direct each needed change and addition leading up to the authoritative Seventy-third Edition with its final body of rules designed to stand for all time.*

In addition to their transitional services, the First Members protected the Church in its infant years, constituting the last fragment of human, congregational control, so essential in preparing the membership for the final form of Church government. With the dissolution of this group, the Board of Directors under the Church Manual became the perpetual governing agent of The Mother Church as specified in the "Deed of Trust", and were given full authority by the completed Church Manual.

Under Mrs. Eddy's higher vision of Church during this period, 1892-1908, membership had steadily increased and become world-wide in extent. Mrs. Eddy had brought to mankind a Church which "represents the church universal and reflects the church triumphant." (cf. Manual, 1895)

* See Article XXXV, Section 2, for a note regarding subsequent editions of the Manual.

ADDITION: In the SPRING QUARTERLY, 1965, the names of Mrs. Caroline S. Bates and Mrs. Emilie B. Hulin were inadvertently omitted from the list of First Members, elected on September 23, 1892.

The Next Issue

THE OCONTO, WISCONSIN CHURCH, the first Christian Science church edifice in the world, will be the subject of the lead article in the next issue (Autumn 1965).

A Minute-Man of Science



WILLIAM B. JOHNSON Young Hunter

WHEN MRS. EDDY retired from the personal leadership of the Christian Science movement in 1889, she entered a more arduous field of battle on which was to be won a great victory. She was to establish The First Church of Christ, Scientist, which would bring its members into a single world-wide organization designed to operate under the divine law of Love. The magnitude of Mrs. Eddy's perception, her courage, her practical and adroit steps which overcame opposition in the turbulent 1880's and early 1890's, may be clearly traced in the supporting activities of William B. Johnson. In 1882 he was healed in Christian Science of a long-standing disability incurred during his three years' duty in the Civil War. From the time he was taught by Mrs. Eddy in 1884 until his passing twenty-seven years later, his service to Mrs. Eddy and to Christian Science was dedicated and unquestioning.

Mr. Johnson was a man of gentle and sincere character, finding great pleasure in books and music. His liberal Methodist affiliations yielded easily to a growing interest in Christian Science and in 1884 he turned wholly to the practice of Christian Science. Despite several financially lean years, he persevered in this work.

Soon after class teaching with Mrs. Eddy he became an active worker in the Church of Christ, Scientist, which Mrs. Eddy established in 1879. In 1886 he and Mrs. Sarah D. Howe organized its

first choir with Miss Carlotta Bowers from the New England Conservatory of Music as soprano-soloist. Later he arranged for a Miss Morse, also of the Conservatory, to serve as organist. At this time the church was holding its Sunday services at Chickering Hall, and from 1889, its Friday evening meetings at Steinert or Wesleyan Hall.

The Christian Scientists' Association of the Massachusetts Metaphysical College, made up only of Mrs. Eddy's students, was active in the maintenance and administration of the church. Mr. Johnson became its Secretary on the resignation of Charles A.S. Troup in 1888. Some time earlier he had been made Secretary of the National Christian Scientist Association, and holding the secretarial post in both Associations, he was in touch with the entire field.

The 1880's were years of mixed loyalties among Mrs. Eddy's students, many promising neophytes falling away as they sought personal recognition. Pretenders to leadership sprang up and Mrs. Eddy was beset by opposition from within the movement and attacks from without. There were two organized revolts against her. She countered the first by the founding of the *Journal of Christian Science* in 1883. (Renamed April 1885 *The Christian Science Journal*). The second revolt, which began June 2, 1888, at a meeting of the Christian Scientists' Association composed of Mrs. Eddy's students, was rendered ineffective by the dissolution a year later of the formal organization of the Christian Scientists' Association, the Massachusetts Metaphysical College, and the Church of Christ, Scientist.

It was during this 1888 revolt that she sent Mr. Johnson to Chicago to attend the Annual Meeting of the National Christian Scientist Association and to carry messages to some twelve loyal students in that city. As the divisive nature of the Boston plot was realized by Mrs. Eddy, she herself entrained for Chicago four days later to prevent the spread of this schism among her students in the West. It was on this visit that a disloyal chairman without previous notice to her called upon her

to address an audience of more than fifteen hundred assembled in Chicago's Central Music Hall. Over 800 delegates to the National Christian Scientist Association were seated in the Hall; a hundred of her own students were on the platform; while crowding the sides of the Hall and the balcony were hundreds of visitors. Just below the platform was a filled press table. Rising to this occasion, she gave to the assembled gathering her spontaneous address, "Science and the Senses," which was recorded at the meeting by a stenographic reporter and is preserved in part in *Miscellaneous Writings*, pp 98-106.

By 1889 Mrs. Eddy's concept of The Mother Church with world-wide membership had matured in her thought, as had the democratic nature of branch churches. To accomplish the revolutionary change from the old order to the new called for loyal support by workers who could hold inviolate her most carefully guarded plans and who had the tact and ability to put them into action. No one was called upon more frequently to carry out these plans than Mr. Johnson.

His healing work as a practitioner prospered and simultaneously Mrs. Eddy came to rely increasingly on him. She appointed him to the first Bible Lesson Committee in 1890, and in 1891 made him a member of a committee of seven to prepare a Christian Science Hymnal. Other members of the committee were Lyman Brackett, Miss Julia Bartlett, Miss Susie M. Lang, Mrs. Charles Thomas, E. H. Hall, and William G. Nixon. Mr. Johnson also served as an officer of the Christian Science Dispensary, suggested by Mrs. Eddy in 1889 to give free healing service to those who were unable to pay for it. Some time after the dissolution of the church in 1889, Mrs. Eddy requested him to reorganize the Sunday School with a superintendent to conduct it in an orderly manner. In 1893 he was made a member of the Advisory Council of Religious Congresses in connection with the Chicago World's Fair.

From 1890 he served as Clerk of a Board of Directors consisting of five men — David Anthony, Joseph S. Eastaman, Eugene H. Greene, William

B. Johnson, Ira O. Knapp — named by Mrs. Eddy to look after the welfare of the former church and its continuing services, and to perform any necessary official functions in working out plans for the new church.

As Clerk, Mr. Johnson was delegated by Mrs. Eddy in 1892 to secure an application for a charter to permit organization of the church under a new plan, and she directed him to get the signatures, if they favored the move, of a group of loyal students selected by her. This entailed several trips to New York, to Providence, and to other points in New England. When notices were sent at Mrs. Eddy's direction to those students chosen to organize the church anew, Mr. Johnson was responsible for sending these notices and for attending to certain legal matters connected therewith. When the twelve students met on September 23, 1892 to complete the organization, William B.

Johnson, Ira O. Knapp, Joseph S. Eastaman, and Stephen A. Chase were made Directors, with Mr. Johnson as Clerk.* All were First Members.

William B. Johnson's life was a busy one completely loyal to Mrs. Eddy and dedicated to the progress of Christian Science. Many facets of the movement were compassed in his work during the five years preceding the completion of The Mother Church. His kindly, genial, and tactful nature smoothed many rough places for Mrs. Eddy as the movement went steadily forward under her God-directed leadership. William B. Johnson takes his place among the worthy and steadfast early students, who, glimpsing Mrs. Eddy's place and mission, played an important part in helping her to establish the movement she founded.

*The Board of Directors had been previously appointed by Mrs. Eddy on September 1 through a Deed of Trust.

Notes

A HAPPY OCCASION at Longyear Foundation was the visit on August 28 of some 1700 young people who were among those attending the Biennial Meeting of the College Organizations.

IN A SECONDARY aspect, Longyear Foundation is contributing to another facet of history — the history of landscape design in the United States. A specialist in the field, Mr. Henry F. Davis of Lowden Tree Specialists, Inc. recently called attention to the notable planting on the grounds surrounding the Foundation. It well represents a period of landscape design prevalent in the Hudson River district prior to 1900 and is one of two gardens of the period remaining in this area, the other being the Hunnewell Gardens at Wellesley. In large measure, he said, the original design has been retained at Longyear, and the plant material is in relatively excellent condition — a

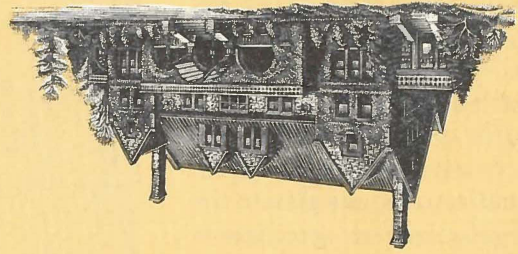
credit to previous and present grounds-men since these men play an important part in the maintenance of any formal design consisting primarily of espaliered plantings.

THE TRUSTEES OF LONGYEAR FOUNDATION wish to express their sincere gratitude for the many contributions to the Longyear Collection which have been received since the Spring Quarterly News reached you.

RICH RED PLASTIC binders with "Longyear Foundation: *Quarterly News*" imprinted in gold on the cover are now available at the Longyear Sales Desk at \$1.50 each. The binder will comfortably hold twelve issues of the publication. A limited number of back issues are available at 75 cents each for those desiring to complete their files of the Quarterly News, which began publication with the Spring 1964 issue.

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LONGYEAR FOUNDATION, 120 SEAVER STREET, BROOKLINE,
MASSACHUSETTS 02146, WELCOMES INQUIRIES ABOUT
MEMBERSHIPS, SUBSCRIPTIONS, AND ITS SERVICES.

FOUNDATION HOURS: 9 TO 5 DAILY; GALLERY TOURS 1 TO
4:30; CLOSED SUNDAY; ADMISSION FREE. TEL. 277-8943

August 2015: Minor edits have been made to this newsletter to reflect new
information that has come to light since the original publication.