

Objective

To make students of Christian Science more aware of Mary Baker Eddy's last version of the *Church Manual*, the 88th edition, at the time of her passing on December 3, 1910.

Points to Ponder

1. On pages 4 through 6 is a list of the changes that were made by the Christian Science Board of Directors to Mrs. Eddy's *Church Manual* after her last personally approved edition. Some changes are major in their intent and action, while others that seem minor, may be more important than first thought. Did the Board of Directors have the authority to make any changes? If so, from whom did they receive this authority to modify Mrs. Eddy's divinely inspired writings? Students who believe Mrs. Eddy was divinely inspired will want to study the changes and supporting information. Through this, they can decide how these changes have affected today's administration and direction.
2. Are more changes of "technical adjustments" planned in the future, and what effect will they have on the Cause of Christian Science?
3. In the letter on page 2, item 3 asks about the change of date in the Historical Sketch, which appeared in 1897. This date also appears in *Retrospection and Introspection* published in 1891, and in *Mind-Healing, Historical Sketch*, 1886. In all these places she gave April 19, 1879, as the date of the meeting of the Christian Scientist Association when the Church of Christ, Scientist, was organized. If it is incorrect, one would think that only a few years after such an important meeting, Mrs. Eddy would have know or been questioned about the correct date. After 21 years, from 1910 to 1931, the Board of Directors decided that Mrs. Eddy had made a "mistake," which they "corrected" in all her writings.
4. How does an alteration in capitalization change the meaning of a word? On the bottom of page 11 and top of page 12 is an example of how the workers of her day saw her reasoning very clearly.
5. In "An Important Statement," February 1955, on page 22, the Board of Directors contradict themselves. How can they say nothing has been changed in Mrs. Eddy's writings and then list the changes?