

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE JOURNAL

FOUNDED APRIL, 1883, BY MARY BAKER EDDY, AUTHOR OF THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE TEXTBOOK,
"SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES"

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AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT

IN view of inquiries received from time to time and some current misinformation, we believe the Field will be glad to have the following statement concerning the books of our beloved Leader, Mary Baker Eddy.

Since her passing in 1910 no change whatever has been made in anything which she has written. The text of all her writings as published remains today exactly as she left it, and will, of course, be preserved permanently in this form.

The changes which have appeared in her books since her passing, changes in typography and bindings to keep them abreast of the times, and a few others—none of them altering her own words—have all been due to specific instructions from her or policies firmly established by her.

In the 1911 printing of the Manual of The Mother Church, for example, the words "and Branch Churches" were added to the titles on pages 120 and 127 over the order of services for our churches and the order of exercises for the Sunday School. This printing of the Manual went to press in 1910, in Mrs. Eddy's lifetime, and the changes mentioned were authorized personally by her, although they did not appear in finished books until after her passing. The corresponding title over the order of service for Thanksgiving Day had already appeared in the 1910 edition of the Manual. Actually, these changes only made a further record of rules and practices which had long been in effect.

A policy established by Mrs. Eddy was followed in making two changes in the

chapter on Fruitage in "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures" after her passing. In 1907 circumstances had come to light which convinced Mrs. Eddy that one of the testimonies which she had placed in this chapter should not be retained, and she instructed her publisher to remove it and to put in another which she had selected. She instructed him similarly in regard to another testimony in the chapter in 1909, that time asking him, however, to choose the one to be inserted.

At intervals after 1910, the attention of the publishers was called to similar circumstances regarding two other testimonies in the chapter—circumstances not previously known to Mrs. Eddy or her publishers—which made these testimonies as definitely unsuitable as those Mrs. Eddy herself had removed. With the approval of The Christian Science Board of Directors one of these testimonies was replaced, and the other removed without replacement. No words of Mrs. Eddy's were involved. The second and last change in the chapter was made in 1925.

Mrs. Eddy took great care to protect the copyrights on her books. For similar reasons, the Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy, her publishers, have adopted what are known as trademarks for her books and have registered them in many countries. The trademarks are the cross and crown emblem and Mrs. Eddy's signature in facsimile. This action was taken because copyrights are limited as to duration, and differently limited in different countries,

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whereas the protection of a trademark, if renewed as required, is permanent in virtually all countries. The trademarks will always identify and protect books regularly authorized and published under the arrangements made by Mrs. Eddy.

One other such change was the inclusion in the English editions of the Church Manual in 1925 of a Topical Index. Mrs. Eddy had always sought to make what she wrote as accessible to students as possible, as illustrated by her provision of the Concordance to Science and Health, and earlier by indexes in the textbook itself. In accordance with that precedent, her publishers provided the Concordance to her other writings after

her passing. It was thought in still later years that an index in the Manual would be another such convenience, but after the index had been there some years, a survey showed that it had been little used, and therefore in 1951 it was dropped.

The Directors of The Mother Church and the Trustees under the Will, like other Christian Scientists, cherish every detail of Mrs. Eddy's writings as she left them, and all the provisions she made for the care of her books. All this, it is clear, came through her own demonstration of the Science she discovered and taught, and there can never be any need of divergence from what she thus did and directed.