

Q. & A. File No. 22-F-3

*Carrie Hungeford's testimonial that
E.G.W. did not eat meat in
last illness - p. 2*

years ago, and while the vegetarian program was adopted in the White home soon after the health reform vision was given to Sister White in 1863, there were times, as I have suggested, that Sister White did use some flesh food. You will find reference to her experience in her Appendix to the book, Counsels on Diet and Foods. It was in 1894 or 1895 that she took her stand that she would eat no more meat, and she used no flesh food whatsoever after that time.

March 2, 1959

There has been a rather persistent report that in the very last years of her life she returned to the use of meat, especially chicken, but we have the testimony of the nurse who attended the nurse who attended her accident in February 1915 until her death.

1033 S. James Street
Ottumwa, Iowa

Dear Brother

This morning I received your letter in which you ask for the several brochures which we at one time issued in our office as separate items, but we now handle them as one combined document. This was mailed to you this morning. It carries the title Ellen G. White Messenger to the Remnant. It is packed full of carefully documented information which I am sure will be of service to you.

You ask concerning the consistency of Sister White in following her counsels in the matter of health reform and particularly in regard to the eating of flesh foods, and you tell me that it was reported to you by one of the visiting brethren at a campmeeting last year that Sister White turned from the non-use of flesh foods in her later years. The brother who passed this information to you must have been misinformed, for the statement which he made was not true.

In the year 1909 at the General Conference session held here in Washington Sister White stated:

"It is reported by some that I have not followed the principles of health reform as I have advocated them with my pen; but I can say that I have been a faithful health reformer. Those who have been members of my family know that this is true."

This is found in the very heart of the article entitled, "Faithfulness of Health Reform," beginning on page 153. This is an article which should be read by every Seventh-day Adventist family every year and every Seventh-day Adventist worker twice a year.

It is true that there were times in her earlier years as Sister White travelled that she found it necessary to use flesh food. It wasn't as easy to get food in different places as it is now. Now one can travel almost anywhere in the world and find an adequate diet without the use of meat. I have found it so in the eight or ten overseas trips I have made during the past ten years. But this was not so fifty, sixty, or seventy

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years ago, and while the vegetarian program was adopted in the White home soon after the health reform vision was given to Sister White in 1863, there were times, as I have suggested, that Sister White did use some flesh food. You will find reference to her experience in her Appendix to the book, Counsels on Diet and Foods. It was in 1894 or 1895 that she took her stand that she would eat no more meat, and she used no flesh food whatsoever after that time.

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In the Ministry magazine of May, 1955, an article appeared by Elder Alonzo J. Wearner, who was a nurse at the St. Helena Sanitarium, or at least in nurses training, during Sister White's later years. After a term of mission service in China, he returned and was connected with many years with the St. Helena Sanitarium as pastor of the church and as an instructor for the nurses. I quote from his article:

"While teaching a class in the doctrine of the Spirit of Prophecy, the lesson being its modern manifestation, I took the occasion to mention a few things which I personally remembered of Sister White's last years. Whereupon three or four hands were raised, all for the same purpose. I then learned that a rumor was current to the effect, that, owing to Sister White's weakness as a result of her last accident, she had asked to be served flesh meats with her meals. And that after her experiment she had changed her mind in regard to what she had written on health reform.

"When I expressed my doubts as to the truthfulness of the story, I was referred to what should have been a good authority. Turning from the subject, I gave a few thoughts on the mischief a false rumor could make and the necessity of certainty in all our sources and honesty in all such pronouncements. There we let the matter rest.

"In the meantime I wrote to Sister White's nurse, whom I remembered, and who is still living--Mrs. Carrie Hungerford--asking several questions. Promptly I received a reply, in her own hand and signed. I quote directly from her letter that which is pertinent:

"In regard to her changing her ideas about Health Reform, she never did. Why should she, when the Lord had shown her about it? She never ate meat or fish at all, nor were they in her house. Even butter was not served on her table while I was there.

"I was sent on duty by the [St. Helena] Sanitarium the a.m. following Sister White's accident, Feb. 1915, and was on with her until she breathed her last, July 16. Friday night as the sun was setting, she passed to her rest."

I am glad that you have written to us about this matter. How important it is that we exercise care in that which is reported.

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary