

J&A Vaccination

January 19, 1956

30 Lillian Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey

Dear Brother

Doctor Flaiz just called me and indicated that you were desirous of having a little more documentation on two points indicating Ellen White's sane approach to modern medical procedures. This had to do with vaccination and X-ray.

First of all, let's take a look at X-ray. The statement which appeared in the material which you had before you was based upon Ellen White's own words as they appeared in a letter, written June 6, 1911. Here is what she said:

"For several weeks I took treatments with the X-ray for the black spot that was on my forehead. In all I took twenty-three treatments, and these succeeded in entirely removing the mark. For this I am very grateful." E. G. White Letter 30, 1911.

On the question of vaccination, we have no direct statement from the pen of Ellen G. White. We do, however, have the testimony of Elder D. E. Robinson, who was one of Mrs. White's secretaries in the later years in Australia, and then at St. Helena in California from the years 1903 on to the close of Mrs. White's life. He married Mrs. White's oldest granddaughter, Ella White, and for many years, after a term of mission service, Elder Robinson was connected with our office until his retirement a few years ago. He is, therefore, quite well qualified to speak of his memory of Ellen White's attitude toward certain things, and of that which actually took place involving Ellen White and the members of the office staff.

In answer to an inquiry received at our office, Elder Robinson wrote on June 12, 1931:

A } "You ask for definite and concise information regarding what Sister White wrote about vaccination and serum.

"This question can be answered very briefly for so far as we have any record, she did not refer to them in any of her writings.

"You will be interested to know, however, that at a time when there was an epidemic of smallpox in the vicinity, she herself was vaccinated and urged her helpers, those connected with her, to be vaccinated. In taking this step Sister White recognized the fact that it has been proven that vaccination either renders one immune from smallpox or greatly lightens its effects if one does come down with it.

"She also recognized the danger of their exposing others if they failed to take this precaution."

At another time, speaking of Mrs. White's attitude toward this question, Elder Robinson wrote:

"Though fully aware of the practice of vaccination during an epidemic of smallpox, she expressed no disapproval of it either as a preventative or a remedy. Members of her own family were vaccinated and with her approval."

I think, Brother Quigley, this will give you a little more in the way of sound documentation for this point on which you are seeking further information.

With the best of wishes, and the Season's Greetings, I am

Sincerely your brother,

Arthur L. White, Secretary
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