

# CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

## STATISTICS

**Summary for the United States, with urban-rural classification.**—A general summary of the statistics for the Church of Christ, Scientist, for the year 1926 is presented in Table 1, which shows also the distribution of these figures between urban and rural territory.

In the Church of Christ, Scientist, the term "member" denotes persons who have applied for membership and have been admitted and enrolled as members.

**TABLE 1.—SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, 1926: CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST**

ITEM	Total	In urban territory <sup>1</sup>	In rural territory <sup>1</sup>	PER CENT OF TOTAL	
				Urban	Rural
<b>Churches</b> (local organizations).....	1, 913	1, 504	409	78. 6	21. 4
<b>Members</b> .....	<sup>2</sup> 202, 098	131, 657	8, 424	94. 0	6. 0
Average per church <sup>3</sup> .....	73	88	21		
<b>Membership by sex:</b>					
Male.....	33, 700	31, 645	2, 055	93. 9	6. 1
Female.....	103, 578	97, 286	6, 292	93. 9	6. 1
Sex not reported.....	<sup>2</sup> 64, 820	2, 726	77	<sup>3</sup> 97. 3	<sup>2</sup> 2. 7
Males per 100 females.....	32. 5	32. 5	32. 7		
<b>Membership by age:</b>					
Under 13 years.....					
13 years and over.....	<sup>2</sup> 202, 098	131, 657	8, 424	<sup>3</sup> 94. 0	<sup>2</sup> 6. 0
<b>Church edifices:</b>					
Number.....	1, 206	1, 004	202	83. 3	16. 7
Value—Churches reporting.....	1, 185	985	200	83. 1	16. 9
Amount reported.....	\$69, 416, 744	\$68, 142, 292	\$1, 274, 452	98. 2	1. 8
Average per church.....	\$58, 580	\$69, 180	\$6, 372		
Debt—Churches reporting.....	411	352	59	85. 6	14. 4
Amount reported.....	\$9, 638, 400	\$9, 447, 789	\$190, 611	98. 0	2. 0
Churches reporting "no debt" on church edifice.....	772	633	139	82. 0	18. 0
<b>Expenditures during year: <sup>4</sup></b>					
Churches reporting.....	1, 859	1, 467	392	78. 9	21. 1
Amount reported.....	\$14, 202, 116	\$13, 662, 643	\$539, 473	96. 2	3. 8
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$11, 809, 738	\$11, 358, 434	\$451, 304	96. 2	3. 8
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$2, 312, 540	\$2, 229, 176	\$83, 364	96. 4	3. 6
Not classified.....	\$79, 838	\$75, 033	\$4, 805	94. 0	6. 0
Average expenditure per church.....	\$7, 640	\$9, 313	\$1, 376		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>					
Churches reporting.....	1, 655	1, 347	308	81. 4	18. 6
Officers and teachers.....	27, 439	25, 729	1, 710	93. 8	6. 2
Scholars.....	140, 566	133, 145	7, 421	94. 7	5. 3

<sup>1</sup> Urban territory includes all cities and other incorporated places which had 2,500 inhabitants or more in 1920, the date of the last Federal census; rural territory comprises the remainder of the country.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 62,017 persons, members of The Mother Church but not affiliated with any local church or society and therefore not distributed geographically and not reported by sex and age.

<sup>3</sup> Based upon the membership of local organizations.

<sup>4</sup> Figures include the expenditures of The Mother Church and therefore contain some duplications. This is particularly true of the figures for benevolences and denominational support, resulting from the fact that certain contributions made by the local organizations to The Mother Church are again counted in the expenditures of The Mother Church.

The data given for 1926 represent 1,913 active organizations of the Church of Christ, Scientist, with 202,098 members. The classification of membership by sex was reported by 1,896 churches and the classification by age was reported by all of the 1,913 churches, none of which, however, reported any members under 13 years of age. No parsonages were reported in 1926.

**Comparative data, 1890-1926.**—Table 2 presents, in convenient form for comparison, a summary of the available statistics of this denomination for the censuses of 1926, 1906, and 1890. Figures for 1916 are not available.

TABLE 2.—COMPARATIVE SUMMARY, 1890 TO 1926: CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

ITEM	1926	1906	1890
<b>Churches</b> (local organizations).....	1,913	635	221
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	1,278	414	
Per cent.....	201.3	187.3	
<b>Members</b> .....	<sup>1</sup> 202,098	<sup>2</sup> 65,717	8,724
Increase over preceding census:			
Number.....	136,381	56,993	
Per cent.....	207.5	653.3	
Average membership per church <sup>3</sup> .....	73	103	39
<b>Church edifices:</b>			
Number.....	1,206	253	7
Value—Churches reporting.....	1,185	253	
Amount reported.....	\$69,416,744	\$8,806,441	\$40,666
Average per church.....	\$58,580	\$34,808	
Debt—Churches reporting.....	411	88	
Amount reported.....	\$9,638,400	\$391,338	
<b>Expenditures during year:</b> <sup>4</sup>			
Churches reporting.....	1,859		
Amount reported.....	\$14,202,116		
Current expenses and improvements.....	\$11,809,738		
Benevolences, missions, etc.....	\$2,312,540		
Not classified.....	\$79,838		
Average expenditure per church.....	\$7,640		
<b>Sunday schools:</b>			
Churches reporting.....	1,655	550	
Officers and teachers.....	27,439	3,155	
Scholars.....	140,566	16,116	

<sup>1</sup> Includes 62,017 persons, members of The Mother Church but not affiliated with any local church or society.

<sup>2</sup> Exclusive of persons (estimated at about 20,000) who were reported both as members of local organizations and also as members of The Mother Church.

<sup>3</sup> Based upon the membership of local organizations.

<sup>4</sup> See footnote 4, Table 1.

**State tables.**—Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the statistics for the Church of Christ, Scientist, by States. Table 3 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches classified according to their location in urban or rural territory and the total membership classified by sex. Table 4 gives for each State the number and membership of the churches for the two censuses, 1926 and 1906. Table 5 shows the value of church property and the debt on such property, for 1926 alone. Table 6 presents, for 1926, the church expenditures, showing separately the amounts expended for current expenses and improvements, and for benevolences, etc., and also gives the data for Sunday schools. Separate presentation in Table 5 is limited to those States in which three or more churches reported value and debt on edifices, in order to avoid disclosing the financial statistics of any individual church. The States omitted from this table can be determined by referring to the complete list which appears in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES IN URBAN AND RURAL TERRITORY, AND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION AND STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES			NUMBER OF MEMBERS			TOTAL MEMBERSHIP BY SEX			
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Sex not reported	Males per 100 females <sup>(1)</sup>
United States.....	1,913	1,504	409	202,098	131,657	8,424	33,700	103,578	64,820	32.5
New England:										
Maine.....	23	11	12	911	675	236	201	710		28.3
New Hampshire.....	22	16	6	702	623	79	168	534		31.5
Vermont.....	12	9	3	310	256	54	60	250		24.0
Massachusetts.....	72	68	4	8,536	8,419	117	1,587	4,738	2,211	33.5
Rhode Island.....	5	5		580	580		129	416	35	31.0
Connecticut.....	26	20	6	1,517	1,382	135	406	1,111		36.5
Middle Atlantic:										
New York.....	141	127	14	11,530	11,238	292	3,010	8,500	20	35.4
New Jersey.....	54	43	11	3,190	2,715	475	839	2,351		35.7
Pennsylvania.....	64	59	5	4,776	4,438	338	1,437	3,339		43.0
East North Central:										
Ohio.....	90	86	4	9,477	9,412	65	2,421	6,971	85	34.7
Indiana.....	80	68	12	5,514	5,310	204	1,313	4,034	167	32.5
Illinois.....	123	107	16	16,763	16,471	292	4,450	12,238	75	36.4
Michigan.....	87	68	19	6,338	5,999	339	1,459	4,824	55	30.2
Wisconsin.....	70	62	8	4,035	3,912	123	1,018	3,017		33.7
West North Central:										
Minnesota.....	43	35	8	4,430	4,244	186	1,162	3,268		35.6
Iowa.....	60	50	10	3,171	3,023	148	775	2,396		32.3
Missouri.....	57	50	7	5,979	5,887	92	1,402	4,577		30.6
North Dakota.....	15	11	4	411	363	48	114	297		38.4
South Dakota.....	16	12	4	528	467	61	108	420		25.7
Nebraska.....	38	23	15	2,085	1,848	237	507	1,578		32.1
Kansas.....	63	49	14	2,719	2,460	259	619	2,081	19	29.7
South Atlantic:										
Delaware.....	7	6	1	990	981	9	284	706		40.2
Maryland.....	4	4								
Dist. of Columbia.....	4	4		1,257	1,257		242	1,015		23.8
Virginia.....	12	10	2	616	575	41	129	487		26.5
West Virginia.....	8	8		477	477		126	351		35.9
North Carolina.....	14	13	1	492	484	8	130	362		35.9
South Carolina.....	4	4		124	124		35	89		
Georgia.....	12	11	1	809	795	14	206	603		34.2
Florida.....	37	18	19	2,024	1,371	653	551	1,473		37.4
East South Central:										
Kentucky.....	15	15		844	844		177	667		26.5
Tennessee.....	9	9		1,064	1,064		256	808		31.7
Alabama.....	13	12	1	542	525	17	102	384	56	26.6
Mississippi.....	11	11		263	263		62	201		30.8
West South Central:										
Arkansas.....	15	12	3	506	430	76	110	396		27.8
Louisiana.....	8	8		788	788		163	625		26.1
Oklahoma.....	37	33	4	2,118	2,060	58	461	1,646	11	28.0
Texas.....	53	47	6	3,296	3,217	79	708	2,588		27.4
Mountain:										
Montana.....	21	15	6	926	827	99	235	691		34.0
Idaho.....	23	16	7	771	641	130	161	610		26.4
Wyoming.....	12	7	5	359	275	84	68	291		23.4
Colorado.....	41	27	14	2,948	2,722	226	685	2,263		30.3
New Mexico.....	9	6	3	228	184	44	46	182		25.3
Arizona.....	12	10	2	335	317	18	85	238	12	35.7
Utah.....	5	4	1	601	575	26	125	476		26.3
Nevada.....	9	4	5	180	105	75	40	140		28.6
Pacific:										
Washington.....	78	40	38	4,773	4,076	697	1,020	3,753		27.2
Oregon.....	48	29	19	2,893	2,532	361	599	2,294		26.1
California.....	235	146	89	16,355	14,376	1,979	3,709	12,589	57	29.5

<sup>1</sup> Ratio not shown where number of females is less than 100.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 62,017 members of The Mother Church, not affiliated with any local church or society, and therefore not distributed geographically and not reported by sex.

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND MEMBERSHIP OF CHURCHES, BY STATES, 1926 AND 1906: CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches in either 1926 or 1906]

STATE	NUMBER OF CHURCHES		NUMBER OF MEMBERS	
	1926	1906	1926	1906
United States.....	1,913	635	<sup>1</sup> 202,098	<sup>2</sup> 65,717
Maine.....	23	14	911	384
New Hampshire.....	22	7	702	431
Vermont.....	12	6	310	144
Massachusetts.....	72	33	8,536	<sup>2</sup> 23,547
Rhode Island.....	5	3	580	234
Connecticut.....	26	10	1,517	521
New York.....	141	51	11,530	5,671
New Jersey.....	54	12	3,190	640
Pennsylvania.....	64	25	4,776	1,551
Ohio.....	90	34	9,477	2,582
Indiana.....	80	25	5,514	1,931
Illinois.....	123	54	16,763	5,675
Michigan.....	87	33	6,338	1,580
Wisconsin.....	70	29	4,035	1,704
Minnesota.....	43	20	4,430	2,387
Iowa.....	60	34	3,171	1,485
Missouri.....	57	20	5,979	2,644
North Dakota.....	15	3	411	139
South Dakota.....	16	8	528	237
Nebraska.....	38	18	2,085	994
Kansas.....	63	31	2,719	1,131
Delaware.....	7	3	990	297
Maryland.....	4	1	1,257	347
District of Columbia.....	12	2	616	175
Virginia.....	8	3	477	74
West Virginia.....	14	4	492	110
North Carolina.....	4	1	124	23
South Carolina.....	12	7	809	397
Georgia.....	37	6	2,024	171
Florida.....	15	4	844	137
Kentucky.....	9	5	1,064	337
Tennessee.....	13	3	542	94
Alabama.....	11	2	263	92
Mississippi.....	15	3	506	82
Arkansas.....	8	1	788	63
Louisiana.....	37	10	2,118	391
Oklahoma.....	53	16	3,296	796
Texas.....	21	6	926	213
Montana.....	23	3	771	119
Idaho.....	12	-----	359	-----
Wyoming.....	41	20	2,948	1,489
Colorado.....	9	-----	228	-----
New Mexico.....	12	3	335	78
Arizona.....	5	5	601	452
Utah.....	9	-----	180	-----
Nevada.....	78	14	4,773	924
Washington.....	48	8	2,893	591
Oregon.....	235	35	16,355	2,753
California.....				

<sup>1</sup> Includes 62,017 persons, members of The Mother Church, not distributed by States.<sup>2</sup> Exclusive of persons, (estimated at about 20,000), who were reported both as members of a local church or society and also as members of The Mother Church.

TABLE 5.—VALUE OF CHURCH PROPERTY, AND CHURCH DEBT, BY STATES, 1926: CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

[Separate presentation is limited to States having 3 or more churches reporting value of edifices]

STATE	Total number of churches	Number of church edifices	VALUE OF CHURCH EDIFICES		DEBT ON CHURCH EDIFICES	
			Churches reporting	Amount	Churches reporting	Amount
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>1,913</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>\$69,416,744</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>\$9,638,400</b>
Maine.....	23	15	15	252,304	4	14,577
New Hampshire.....	22	10	10	931,327	3	16,337
Vermont.....	12	5	5	82,000	1	10,550
Massachusetts.....	72	49	49	7,569,851	20	328,335
Connecticut.....	26	15	15	616,409	5	53,085
New York.....	141	87	82	12,964,212	41	2,619,388
New Jersey.....	54	34	31	1,379,944	14	276,950
Pennsylvania.....	64	33	32	1,836,135	13	173,750
Ohio.....	90	51	50	5,371,018	22	1,047,975
Indiana.....	80	53	52	1,300,639	16	97,764
Illinois.....	123	75	74	7,367,478	20	555,740
Michigan.....	87	54	54	2,400,716	15	124,479
Wisconsin.....	70	43	43	1,599,522	12	184,653
Minnesota.....	43	24	24	1,340,903	3	99,750
Iowa.....	60	35	35	795,339	4	48,583
Missouri.....	57	38	36	3,288,761	12	628,047
North Dakota.....	15	9	8	108,458	1	1,200
South Dakota.....	16	12	12	129,800	2	6,000
Nebraska.....	38	26	26	741,172	8	52,898
Kansas.....	63	43	43	545,231	12	15,365
Maryland.....	6	4	4	503,080	3	70,400
District of Columbia.....	4	3	3	700,000	2	137,000
Virginia.....	12	8	8	136,973	3	12,323
North Carolina.....	14	6	6	218,893	1	7,000
South Carolina.....	4	3	3	22,500	1	3,600
Georgia.....	12	6	6	71,506	.....	.....
Florida.....	37	24	24	1,210,227	7	365,850
Kentucky.....	15	10	10	918,138	4	308,500
Tennessee.....	9	6	6	257,000	2	11,200
Alabama.....	13	4	4	96,753	3	17,740
Mississippi.....	11	4	4	47,000	2	8,800
Arkansas.....	15	11	10	97,500	1	13,691
Louisiana.....	8	7	7	219,770	4	41,500
Oklahoma.....	37	32	32	580,323	8	25,984
Texas.....	53	36	36	1,133,789	18	133,948
Montana.....	21	12	12	131,124	2	5,944
Idaho.....	23	19	19	97,005	5	17,050
Wyoming.....	12	6	6	42,500	1	2,250
Colorado.....	41	33	32	860,919	6	57,800
New Mexico.....	9	3	3	30,981	2	6,227
Arizona.....	12	6	6	170,353	2	52,394
Utah.....	5	5	5	132,855	1	7,000
Washington.....	78	50	49	1,145,060	21	320,815
Oregon.....	48	36	36	943,039	17	196,343
California.....	235	156	153	7,670,082	65	1,395,115
Other States.....	23	5	5	1,358,155	2	64,500

TABLE 6.—CHURCH EXPENDITURES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS, BY STATES, 1926:  
CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

STATE	Total number of churches	EXPENDITURES DURING YEAR <sup>1</sup>					SUNDAY SCHOOLS		
		Churches reporting	Total amount	For current expenses and improvements	For benevolences, missions, etc.	Not classified	Churches reporting	Officers and teachers	Scholars
<b>United States</b> .....	<b>1,913</b>	<b>1,859</b>	<b>\$14,202,116</b>	<b>\$11,809,738</b>	<b>\$2,312,540</b>	<b>\$79,838</b>	<b>1,655</b>	<b>27,439</b>	<b>140,566</b>
Maine.....	23	22	49,203	45,351	2,907	945	20	141	564
New Hampshire.....	22	21	33,252	29,149	3,343	760	17	91	241
Vermont.....	12	12	15,585	13,577	2,008	—	9	33	95
Massachusetts.....	72	70	1,429,308	829,941	596,213	3,154	65	1,146	5,349
Rhode Island.....	5	5	40,791	33,562	7,229	—	5	72	393
Connecticut.....	26	26	116,786	98,797	16,218	1,771	23	268	1,175
New York.....	141	139	1,508,807	1,286,699	215,333	6,775	129	1,975	9,862
New Jersey.....	54	52	344,300	310,149	33,249	902	51	615	3,017
Pennsylvania.....	64	62	485,777	387,961	94,525	3,291	56	706	3,720
Ohio.....	90	89	783,558	691,020	88,654	3,884	80	1,537	8,539
Indiana.....	80	78	257,924	228,056	25,985	3,883	71	877	3,744
Illinois.....	123	120	1,587,411	1,358,184	228,327	900	108	2,886	14,412
Michigan.....	87	83	556,437	442,786	108,697	4,954	70	1,635	6,220
Wisconsin.....	70	68	266,410	219,074	46,792	544	57	878	4,702
Minnesota.....	43	40	231,226	203,532	26,889	805	36	747	3,581
Iowa.....	60	58	169,938	151,127	18,811	—	48	437	2,105
Missouri.....	57	54	985,204	852,943	131,013	1,248	48	1,129	6,593
North Dakota.....	15	15	21,007	17,462	3,145	400	12	72	527
South Dakota.....	16	16	25,504	22,286	3,218	—	13	116	437
Nebraska.....	38	35	137,945	128,113	8,640	1,192	31	312	1,650
Kansas.....	63	60	120,812	100,169	20,093	550	52	832	3,136
Delaware.....	1	1	77,530	58,684	18,846	—	1	14	85
Maryland.....	6	6					5	148	866
District of Columbia.....	4	4	81,449	65,749	15,700	—	4	183	898
Virginia.....	12	12	36,588	30,125	5,330	1,133	11	99	437
West Virginia.....	8	8	56,080	52,966	3,114	—	8	83	398
North Carolina.....	14	14	32,140	25,866	4,245	2,029	11	59	227
South Carolina.....	4	4	7,161	6,413	748	—	4	18	64
Georgia.....	12	12	82,967	61,424	4,084	17,459	10	125	576
Florida.....	37	36	612,698	584,471	25,610	2,617	30	332	1,660
Kentucky.....	15	15	125,405	113,472	10,227	-1,696	14	120	572
Tennessee.....	9	9	50,520	45,238	5,282	—	9	115	556
Alabama.....	13	12	29,245	26,552	2,061	632	8	73	420
Mississippi.....	11	11	13,837	10,366	3,150	321	9	44	169
Arkansas.....	15	14	24,239	21,432	2,807	—	13	79	326
Louisiana.....	8	8	63,483	50,340	13,143	—	8	185	808
Oklahoma.....	37	36	172,763	162,742	9,841	180	30	288	1,355
Texas.....	53	50	198,022	158,186	36,659	3,177	43	561	2,931
Montana.....	21	21	61,861	49,543	4,733	7,585	16	194	1,027
Idaho.....	23	23	31,448	27,927	3,471	50	22	141	684
Wyoming.....	12	10	13,154	11,280	1,874	—	12	68	384
Colorado.....	41	39	188,679	162,598	26,081	—	32	497	2,725
New Mexico.....	9	9	11,974	10,931	1,043	—	8	48	194
Arizona.....	12	11	89,879	86,838	2,502	544	10	87	452
Utah.....	5	4	23,176	21,955	1,221	—	4	112	352
Nevada.....	9	9	9,933	8,494	1,439	—	9	43	242
Washington.....	78	77	340,939	276,215	64,617	107	66	1,232	5,906
Oregon.....	48	47	243,799	211,117	31,413	1,269	43	647	3,278
California.....	235	232	2,355,962	2,018,881	332,000	5,081	214	5,339	32,912

<sup>1</sup> Figures include the expenditures of The Mother Church and therefore contain some duplications. This is particularly true of the figures for benevolences and denominational support, resulting from the fact that certain contributions made by the local organizations to The Mother Church are again counted in the expenditures of The Mother Church.

<sup>2</sup> Amount for Delaware combined with figures for Maryland, to avoid disclosing the statistics of individual churches.

HISTORY, DOCTRINE, AND ORGANIZATION<sup>1</sup>

## DENOMINATIONAL HISTORY

Christian Science is the religion founded by Mary Baker Eddy and represented by the Church of Christ, Scientist. The Christian Science denomination was founded by Mrs. Eddy at Boston in 1879, following her discovery of this religion at Lynn, Mass., in 1866, and her issuing of its textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, in 1875.

For many years prior to 1866 Mrs. Eddy observed and studied mental causes and effects. Profoundly religious, she was disposed to attribute causation to God and to regard Him as divine Mind. At Lynn, Mass., in that year, she recovered almost instantly from a severe injury after reading an account of healing in the Gospel according to Matthew. The discovery of what she named Christian Science ensued from this incident. As she has said, "I knew the Principle of all harmonious Mind-action to be God, and that cures were produced in primitive Christian healing by holy, uplifting faith; but I must know the Science of this healing, and I won my way to absolute conclusions through divine revelation, reason, and demonstration" (*Science and Health*).

At first, Mrs. Eddy did not expect to found a distinct church or denomination; she hoped that her restoration to original Christianity of its healing power would be accepted by existing churches, as her teachings and the results of their practice became known. In a few years, however, it became evident that a distinct church was needed to facilitate cooperation and unity between Christian Scientists, to present Christian Science to all people, and to maintain the purity of its teachings and practice. Accordingly, she and her followers organized the Church of Christ, Scientists, "to commemorate the words and works of our Master" and to "reinstat primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing" (*Church Manual*, p. 17).

Mrs. Eddy passed away in 1910. Until then, she had initiated every step in the progress of Christian Science. Nothing of moment was done without her approval. Furthermore, although the organic law of the Christian Science movement, its *Church Manual*, confers extensive and sufficient powers upon an administrative board, The Christian Science Board of Directors, yet this board always had functioned under her immediate supervision. Mrs. Eddy's demise, therefore, immediately tested the adequacy of the *Church Manual* as an organic law and the loyalty of Christian Scientists to this law, in the absence of its author. In spite of all doubts and predictions, in some instances concomitant with friendly interest, both the law of the Church and the loyalty of its members have fulfilled the most confident expectations, and the period since 1910 has actually been the most fruitful and prosperous in the history of Christian Science.

The primary source of information about Christian Science is Mrs. Eddy's book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, first published in 1875 and occasionally revised "only to give a clearer and fuller expression of its original meaning." This book received from the author its final revision in 1907. Mrs. Eddy was the author of numerous other books on Christian Science, published from 1886 to 1913.

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<sup>1</sup>This statement was furnished by The Christian Science Board of Directors, Church of Christ, Scientist.

## DOCTRINE

Christian Science is a religious teaching and practice based on the words and works of Christ Jesus, which is applicable to health for the same reasons that the Christian religion originally was. As defined by Mrs. Eddy, the religion she founded is "divine metaphysics"; it is "the scientific system of divine healing"; it is "the law of God, the law of good, interpreting and demonstrating the divine Principle and rule of universal harmony" (Science and Health, pp. 111, 123; Rudimental Divine Science, p. 1).

The theology of Christian Science begins with the propositions that God is the only might or mind; that He is the "divine Principle of all that really is." To define God further, it employs frequently the word "good," besides such terms as Life, Truth, Love, and also Soul, Spirit, and Infinite Person. Next to God, the name of Jesus and references to Him occur most frequently in the authorized literature of Christian Science. Concerning Jesus Christ and His relation to God and man, Christian Science distinguishes between what is in the New Testament and what is in the creeds, doctrines, and dogmas of later times. Accordingly, Christian Scientists speak of Him oftenest as the "Way" or the "Way-shower," and they regard the atonement, His chief work, as "the exemplification of man's unity with God, whereby man reflects divine Truth, Life, and Love" (Science and Health, p. 18).

The most distinctive feature of Christian Science teaching is its absolute distinction between what is real and what is apparent or seeming, but unreal. This distinction Mrs. Eddy explains, for instance, as follows: "All reality is in God and His creation, harmonious and eternal. That which He creates is good, and He makes all that is made. Therefore the only reality of sin, sickness, or death is the awful fact that unrealities seem real to human, erring belief, until God strips off their disguise. They are not true, because they are not of God" (Science and Health, p. 472).

Contrary to common misapprehension, Christian Science does not ignore what it regards as unreal. This religion teaches its adherents to forsake and overcome every form of error or evil on the basis of its unreality; that is, by demonstrating the true idea of reality. This it teaches them to do by means of spiritual law and spiritual power.

In this connection, Christian Science maintains that the truth of being—the truth concerning God and man—includes a rule for its practice and a law by which its practice produces effects. To a certain extent Jesus declared this rule and law when he said, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John viii, 32). Accordingly, for an individual to gain his freedom from any form of error or evil, he should know the truth, the absolute truth of being, applicable to his case; and Christian Science further teaches that this practice is effective when employed by one individual for another, because such is the unity of real being and such is the law of God. For these reasons, evidently Jesus could and did declare the possibility of Christian healing in unlimited terms. (See Matthew x, 5-10, and xxviii, 16-20; Mark xvi, 14-18; John xiv, 12.)

The practice of Christian Science is not merely mental; it must be also spiritual. Indeed, it is truly mental only as it is absolutely spiritual. The nonspiritual elements in the so-called human mind do not contribute to harmony or to health. The practitioner must know or realize spiritually, and his ability to do this is derived from the divine Mind. Therefore, he must agree with the Teacher and Way-shower, who said, "I can of mine own self do nothing" (John v, 30), and he must prepare for the healing ministry and keep himself in condition for it by living the life of a genuine Christian. The practice of Christian Science is not



limited, as is commonly supposed, to the healing of the sick. On the contrary, Christian Scientists regard their religion as applicable to practically every human need.

Membership in this denomination is limited to those applicants who are at least 12 years of age; not members of any other denomination; of Christian character; and who believe in and understand Christian Science according to the teaching and tenets in its textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

#### ORGANIZATION

Since its reorganization in 1892, the denomination has consisted of The Christian Science Mother Church, the proper name of which is The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass., and branch churches or branch societies at all places where there are enough adherents for a local organization. A branch church is called First Church of Christ, Scientist, of its city or town or is called Second Church of Christ, Scientist, of that place and so on. A society is the beginning of a church, and is called Christian Science Society of its locality.

Viewed in another way, The Mother Church consists of members who constitute the local congregation in Boston and of members who reside in other places throughout the world, either where there are branch organizations or where there are not. Thus, on November 30, 1926, The Mother Church had 166,320 members, of whom 149,957 were in the United States (not including Canal Zone, Alaska, Hawaii, and Philippine Islands) and 16,363 were in these possessions and in other countries. At the same time, The Mother Church had 87,940 members in the United States (as defined above) who were members of branch organizations. At approximately the same time, 1,913 of the branch organizations in the United States (eight not reporting) had 140,081 members of whom 87,940 were members of The Mother Church and 52,141 were not. Therefore, at the end of 1926, there were in the United States (as defined above) 202,098 persons who were enrolled as members in the Christian Science denomination, or Church of Christ, Scientist.

At the same time, there were enrolled in the Sunday schools of this denomination in the United States 140,566 pupils not more than 20 years of age, of whom comparatively few were members of the church. Other interesting figures are as follows: Number of branch organizations in the United States at the end of 1926, 1,921; number of Christian Science practitioners listed in the *Christian Science Journal* (official organ of The Mother Church), 7,559. In a sense, the Christian Science Church can be said to include a large number of persons who believe in Christian Science and attend its services, or study the Bible with Mrs. Eddy's writings, but are not yet admitted to membership; and the number of adherents who are not members is estimated as exceeding the number who are.

The officers of The Mother Church consist of The Christian Science Board of Directors, a president, the first and second readers, a clerk, and a treasurer. The governing body of the denomination is The Christian Science Board of Directors, but each branch church has its own self-government.

The Lesson-sermon which constitutes the principal part of the service, is prepared by a committee connected with The Mother Church and is read in every church by two readers who read alternately, the first reader from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, the second reader from the Bible.

A Wednesday evening testimony meeting, led by the first reader, is likewise held, at which are given the testimonies of those who have been healed and reformed by Christian Science.

All of the activities of the Christian Science denomination are intended to promote spiritualization of thought, together with the innumerable results thereof which include Christian healing. In the healing of the sick, practiced for the

benefit of particular persons, the service rendered by healers or practitioners is regarded as an individual ministry, subject only to a degree of regulation by the Church. The efficacy of Christian Science as a practical religion is attested by a constantly increasing multitude of witnesses who can speak from personal experience.

The following are the principal publications of The Christian Science Publishing Society: The Christian Science Journal (a monthly in English including directories of churches and practitioners); the Christian Science Quarterly (containing citations from the Bible and from the Christian Science textbook for Sunday services and study, and published in English, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Norwegian, Swedish, and revised Braille); the Christian Science Sentinel (a weekly in English); Der Herold der Christian Science (a monthly in German); Le Heraut de Christian Science (a monthly in French); and The Christian Science Monitor (an international daily newspaper).