

## OTHER LETTERS

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I am convinced that SPECTRUM has the potential to be a significant force for change within the Seventh-day Adventist church. Indeed, I believe the church will continue to lose the support of its most thoughtful members unless they find an effective channel for contributing to review and change of both policy and doctrine. SPECTRUM has made an excellent beginning as such a channel, and you are to be complimented for your part in creating this new journal.

The major contribution of SPECTRUM thus far has been to provide a forum for the relatively uninhibited exchange of ideas and views that previously were expressed only in private. This contribution simply cannot be overrated. It represents tangible evidence that the church (or at least some of its members) has achieved sufficient maturity to permit consideration of ideas that in the past were regarded as heretical at worst and inconsistent with good standing at best. Now that the appropriateness of such exchanges has been established and the vehicle to accomplish it brought into existence, a systematic program for focusing attention on a series of issues in desperate need of searching review should be developed.

J. RUSSELL NELSON  
University of Colorado

A crude survey I recently made of the education of Seventh-day Adventist leaders in the nineteenth century provides an interesting footnote to the article by Richard C. Larson and Wilfred M. Hillock [The Education of Adventist Administrators, Winter 1971]. It is based on biographical sketches in the *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* of 315 prominent Adventists born between 1790 and 1870. Because of the rarity of college-trained members in the nineteenth century, it seems safe to assume that most of those who did attend college are listed in the *Encyclopedia* and that their college experience is mentioned. On the other hand, the names of thousands of uneducated members do not appear. Thus, educationally, our statistics show the church in a more favorable light than it really deserves.

	MINISTERS (203)	EDUCATORS (30)	PHYSICIANS (23)	OTHERS (59)
No college	68.5%	26.7%	—	72.9%
Battle Creek College	20.7%	30.0%	—	18.6%
Other Adventist college	6.4%	6.7%	4.3%	1.7%
Non-Adventist college	4.4%	36.7%	95.6%	6.8%

These figures reveal that the great majority of our most influential ministers and other workers, like publishing house employees, had no college education at all. And of the minority who did, only a fraction had any exposure to non-Adventist institutions of higher learning. Consequently, these leaders were effectively isolated from the tre-

mendous intellectual ferment taking place in the academic world of the middle and late nineteenth century. Our physicians were not much better off, since their "college" education generally was purely professional and involved no contact with the liberal arts. (Until this century, most physicians went on to medical school with a high school education or less.) Only among the small group of educators do we find a significant number who had attended — not necessarily graduated from — nondenominational colleges. But, then, almost as many of our "leading" educators seem to have had no college experience whatever, denominational or otherwise.

By themselves, these statistics are obviously inadequate. Yet they do indicate the need for future studies of the effects this intellectual isolation had upon the thinking of our church in its formative years.

RONALD L. NUMBERS  
Loma Linda University

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I was made editor of the British Adventist student magazine *Contact* [some months] ago and had intended to write to you then, as it was then that I saw my first copy of *SPECTRUM*. Quite a lot has happened since, including the British postal strike, and I find myself writing rather belatedly to offer my warm congratulations for producing such an excellent magazine, which gave me an enormous and pleasant surprise when I first saw it. It is a credit to the movement.

*Contact* won't be a British *SPECTRUM*, as we have nothing like the same resources of money and intellect. Also, the magazine will have to serve rather diverse functions, including a means of communication between scattered Adventist students at British universities. But *SPECTRUM* is certainly an ideal standard and an indispensable magazine for Adventist graduates here.

RICHARD LEHMAN  
Pembroke College, Oxford

EDITOR'S NOTE: We congratulate Editor Lehman and the organization of the British Adventist students with their publication of the new journal *Contact*, and we wish them much success and God's guidance.

Last summer it was a great pleasure to meet Svend Overlade (a teacher at the Teachers College at Odenze in Denmark and one of the contributing editors of *SPECTRUM*), and to see the excellent journal *Kommunikation* published by the association of Danish Seventh-day Adventist students. Overlade also made me acquainted with the periodical *Recherches et Contacts*, the organ of the French language Adventist students published in Paris. It was also my privilege to meet with some of the leaders of the Adventist academicians in Germany at Darmstadt and to become acquainted with their activities and plans for German Adventist university students. Recently I received the first issue of *Scope*, the new quarterly journal of the Association of University Seventh-day Adventists' Societies of Australia and found it stimulating.

To see Adventist students and scholars in Australia, North and South America, Africa, and Europe dedicating and organizing themselves for the pursuit of the common goals to strengthen their relationship with their God and with each other and to participate in the continual growth of their church is really inspiring.