

Original of same

JJA 186
10-6

*Revised, + 2 paragraphs
added before mailing.*

December 11, 1936

Pacific Union College,
Angwin, California

Dear

Elder D. E. Robinson has just handed me your letter of December 8 in which you raise several questions on the subject of Recreation and Sports. You ask what Sister White meant when she spoke of Tennis and Bicycle riding, etc., and you ask what her view point was.

As a general rule Sister White's statements are clear and do not call for explanation if studied in their setting. It is not our custom to attempt to explain what Sister White meant, for if you stop to think of it, we would soon be assuming the role of interpreters of the Testimonies and this would be very undesirable. There are times, however, when a knowledge of the background helps to a better understanding of instruction given to meet certain situations.

I shall speak first of Bicycle riding. There was a time when there broke out a sort of a craze along this line. Leading workers holding responsible positions in the cause of God were investing relatively large sums of money in bicycles and took great pride in displaying these. Soon some of these men were drawn into racing matches not only with fellow workers but with men of the city. The time, the means, and the interests of old and young were being diverted to this sport to the detriment of the work of God and the spiritual welfare of those involved. We all recognize in this quite a different situation than when a growing boy is given a bicycle which forms a useful mode of transportation and a clean, healthy means of exercise and recreation.

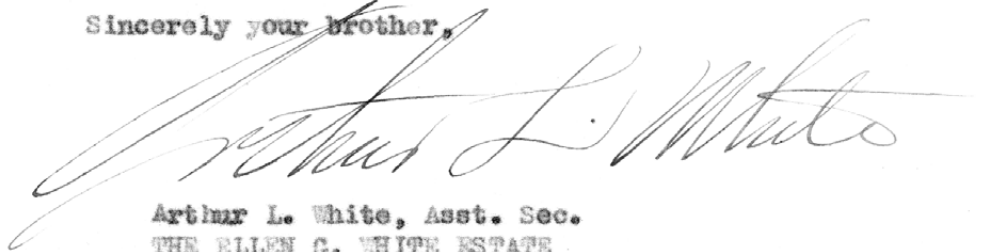
As to the such means of recreation as Tennis, Baseball, etc., Sister White brings out the fundamental principles very clearly in "Education" and "Fundamentals of Christian Education." The dangers are clearly stated in Education on page 210 in the chapter you referred to on "Recreation." It is apparent that there is no sin in playing harmless games, but the danger lies in the conditions and attitudes into which the youth are so often led.

In 1893 one of the students in one of our colleges wrote to Sister White on this point and her reply is helpful. I am enclosing a copy of this in the form of a leaflet. I am also sending along an article entitled,

"Christmas is Coming." While it does not relate directly to the questions in hand, yet the fine way in which the matter of the use of substitutions in amusements is set forth, I think you will value it in your present study.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely your brother,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Arthur L. White". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Arthur L. White, Asst. Sec.
THE ELLEN G. WHITE ESTATE

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