

MISSION — INSPIRATION?

4 Among the excellent articles in this fourth number of the 1971 volume of SPECTRUM is "The 23-Hour Day," the third in Donald E. Hall's series of *thoughts on the scientific attitude*. We appreciate the willingness of Doctor Hall to share his thinking as he confronts himself, and us, with data related to the history of life on this Earth.

Two other articles in this number — "The Bible and the French Revolution," by John W. Wood, and William S. Peterson's response, "Ellen White's Literary Indebtedness" — are the result of a discussion begun a year ago. That SPECTRUM (Autumn 1970) included two related articles — Peterson's opener, "A Textual and Historical Study of Ellen White's Account of the French Revolution," and an article by Roy Branson and Herold Weiss, "Ellen White: A Subject for Adventist Scholarship." These were then followed by W. Paul Bradley's article, "Ellen G. White and Her Writings," together with spirited criticisms from readers and Peterson's replies to these readers (Spring 1971). Peterson responded to Elder Bradley, "An Imaginary Conversation on Ellen G. White," in the Summer 1971 number.

All these presentations, I feel, constitute a most significant discussion. Yet some important issues never quite came to the surface. One such issue is the urgent need for an Adventist doctrine of Inspiration to be defined more clearly than heretofore. Might it be that the Adventist church could make a truly significant contribution to the intense discussion of Inspiration taking place widely in contemporary Christianity? Perhaps this is part of the *mission* of the church.

MOLLEURUS COUPERUS