

Edward Hunter

JOHN HENRY EVANS

THE THIRD PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE CHURCH

EDWARD HUNTER, whose likeness appears on our front cover this month, is remembered in the church as one of the most rugged, original and stalwart characters. Notwithstanding he was an educated man as the schools went in those days, his schooling was never allowed to interfere with his native qualities as a man. He was born near Philadelphia in 1793 of Welsh-English ancestors. His great grandfather on his mother's side was Robert Owen, the great English social leader of the Eighteenth Century. Edward was intended as a surveyor originally, but spent less time in that occupation than in farming. In the neighborhood of the Quaker City the elder Hunter owned several large farms, which he carefully cultivated and which he passed on to his son Edward. These farms in turn were carefully cultivated by his son.

Edward Hunter's conversion to Mormonism was thoroughly characteristic of the man. It seems that the church people in this vicinity needed a place in which to worship. They had money with which to erect a meetinghouse but not the necessary land. Edward Hunter told them that he would give them the land on one condition; namely that they would allow any denomination to hold services there.

All went well until two Mormon Elders came along. They were allowed to hold services in this place but were heckled during their talks by members of other churches who sought to confuse them. When word of this came to Hunter he hurried to the meetinghouse and threatened to revoke the original grant, because it was being violated. Hunter took these two Mormon Elders to his home and heard from them personally the doctrines of their faith. He was not converted at this time. Later when the Prophet stopped at his home on his way from Washington, D. C. to Nauvoo, Hunter was baptised. Hereafter Edward Hunter's was a home where all the Elders in this part of Pennsylvania were royally treated.

After a short visit to Nauvoo in 1841, where he purchased a farm and several town lots he finally located in the City of the Saints in 1842. Meanwhile he had disposed of two of his large farms in Pennsylvania. With him besides wagons, animals, and furniture he took seven thousand dollars in cash, and five thousand dollars in goods of various kinds—twelve thousand dollars in all—which he placed at the disposal of the Prophet. This, however, was not his only or his greatest contribution in money to the Church. The

Prophet urged him not to be so free with his money either to him, Joseph, or to the Church. He held both a civic and a religious office in Nauvoo. He was a member of the City Council and Bishop of the Fifth Ward. When, in 1846, Winter Quarters was organized ecclesiastically he became Bishop of the 7th Ward.

He arrived in Salt Lake City in September, 1847, a captain of one hundred wagons in the first company following the pioneers.

In Utah many trusts fell into the competent hands of this man. He was made Bishop first of South Fort, and then of the Thirteenth Ward of Salt Lake City. It fell to his part

to set on its feet that vast project known as the Perpetual Emigration Fund, through whose instrumentality tens of thousands were to find their way to Western Zion. In 1851 on the death of Newel K. Whitney he was made presiding Bishop of the Church, an office which he retained till his death in 1883. This included the period when the United Order and closely related plans were maintained in several Utah communities.

Edward Hunter's grasp of both the spiritual and the material aspects of life together with his great love for the common man, served to make him one of the great Presiding Bishops of this Church.

HEALTHFUL LIVING—A PART OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Continued from page 459)

should be clearly understood, however, that a lunch purchased in a public place supplements rather than substitutes for meals served in the home. In the school lunch program, an attempt is made to provide at least one third of the school child's daily nutrient requirement. The obligation for providing the remaining two thirds of the nutrient requirement rests with the home. Failure in accepting this responsibility is a failure in obligation toward one's children. Children are healthy, cheerful and mentally alert when well fed. They are sick, disgruntled and mentally dull when malnourished. Here again let it be emphasized that the nutritive quality of foods provided, as well as the quantity, determines the success of

your meal preparation in terms of family health.

This discussion further stresses the degree of obligation of parents toward their children. Carefully planned and properly prepared meals is only one manifestation of regard and interest in one's family. Usually the home that provides abundant and interesting meals produces active, intelligent and responsible citizens. Delinquents are products of homes where there is no or little value placed on the children. "The worth of souls is great in the sight of the Lord." Building a sound, beautiful body is part of the process in saving souls. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ, we cannot slight the obligation of healthful living and expect to gain perfection.