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From a historical sketch, written up by Brother J. J. Wessels in December 1912 we draw the following:

(See J. W. p 242 and Sec 231/1873)

St. Helena  
Calif.

"During the fall and winter of 1873 and 1874 Elder and Mrs. White made their second visit to California. At that time they began to talk about the publication of a paper, for the Pacific Coast. It was also stated by Sister White that according to the light given her, there would be a health institution in California." Sec L.S. 208-18

(July 30, 1873)

(arrived Dec. 28, 1873)

In the autumn of 1872, Elder J. H. Loughborough and I. D. Van Horn had brought out a church in St. Helena, and January twelve 1874, they visited Brother W. A. Pratt and asked him to head a Subscription for funds to build a meeting house.

While Elder Loughborough was pleading for a donation and discussing plans and location, Elder Van Horn strolled up the mountain. He followed the water pipe up the mountain to its source of supply, the Crystal Spring. After admiring the Spring and feasting his eyes on the wonderfully beautiful view of the valley, he rejoined Elder Loughborough and on the way to St. Helena said: "I have found the ideal place for a health resort. There is a fine large spring on the hillside, and it is just the place for a health home."

"On the first of June 1878, a notice appeared in the San Francisco "Call", stating that the "Retreat" would be ready to receive patients on the 7th day of June. There were fourteen guests and patients on the first day. In a short time the patronage so taxed the accommodations that tents were erected for the use of helpers. The first summer's patronage not all running expenses, and in the fall, when the institution was closed for the winter months, a net gain of five hundred Dollars had been realized. Meanwhile, a large amount of charity work had been done.

About this time a stock company was formed to manage the affairs of the enterprise, and stock was issued so a fund could be secured for additional improvements. The "Retreat" was well patronized during the summer of 1879 but in the fall of that year Dr. Kellogg severed his connection with the institution. This left the work without a settled physician, and consequently the home was used as a health resort, although some few simple treatments were given those who desired them."

E.G. White Research Center  
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