

EDITORIAL REMARKS

In This Issue

The contributions to this issue all have strong historical elements: Dr. Fuller's annual address on an aspect of the history of medicine; Dr. Williams-Hogan's article on Swedish society in the seventeenth century; Miss Shanda Heindrichs' paper on the building of the American constitution; and Mr. Karl Birjukov's book review in relation to twenty-first century philosophy.

This issue, being the annual number, opens with transactions of the one hundred and eleventh Annual Meeting held on April 26, 2008; then follow the reports of the treasurer and publisher/editor and the Annual Address titled "Swedenborg's Brain and Southerland's Cranial Concept" delivered by Dr. David B. Fuller.

Dr. Jane Williams-Hogan, professor of history at Bryn Athyn College, is widely known through her studies of Swedenborg; she is currently working on a biography of him, and the article "Sweden: the Seventeenth Century Setting" is, in her words, background material for a chapter. It gives a rare glimpse into the role of historical, sociological, economic, and political factors that are woven into the fabric of the nation.

Miss Shanda Heinrich's article "Religion: the 'Indispensable Support' of the Nation" provides us with a thought-provoking account of the ideas the founding fathers struggled with in the writing of the constitution—the blue-print out of which the American nation was created and continues to evolve.

With the rise of naturalism in the Enlightenment coupled with the development of modern science, twentieth and twentieth-first century thought has become increasingly devoid of serious consideration of realms of reality beyond the material. The Swedenborg Society's recently published *The arms of morpheus—Essays on Swedenborg and Mysticism* provides us with alternative views. Mr. Karl Birjukov's review blends his own thought on the essays with philosophical reflections.