

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held on April 26, 2008, in Cairnwood Village, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania. Dinner was served at 6:30 P.M., and the meeting was called to order at 7:40. The president, Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell, welcomed members and friends. Then, followed a short business meeting that included the following:

- A report from the treasurer, Mr. Les Alden, who spoke of the current state of the association's finances, particularly in reference to the current downturn; despite it, the state of the investment portfolio is good.
- A report from the publisher/editor, Dr. Erland Brock, who addressed aspects of book and journal publishing and of the new support team.
- A report from Vice-President Dr. Dan Synnestvedt on behalf of the nominating committee indicating the need for re-election of Rev. Dr. Reuben Bell as President and the nomination of one new board member, Dr. Richard Shank, to make up the slate of three with Revs. Stephen Cole and Kurt Nemitz. President Bell and the board members were duly elected. In addition, Mrs. Aubrey Odhner having resigned from the board, Dr. Synnestvedt expressed the association's gratitude for her services, particularly in reference to her contributions as chair of the nominating committee; his remarks were followed by a round of applause.
- President Bell then noted that the SSA is alive and well and said that the Mind-Body seminar held from 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. prior to the meeting was well attended. The mind-body problem is simply that there are two axioms: the one states that mind is but a manifestation of the activity of the brain; the other that it is an entity that, though dependent on the brain for its existence, is on a spiritual plane of existence. Swedenborg's model is thus a dualistic one whereas the former is monistic.

President Bell then introduced Dr. David Fuller who gave the Annual Address on the subject “Swedenborg’s Brain and Sutherland’s Cranial Concept” also published in this issue. Following the address, the floor was opened for questions or comments. These included the following:

On brain and cranial movement, what is the status of measurement of these? Dr. Fuller noted that there are researchers on both sides of the question as to whether or not there is in fact movement; the question is not resolved.

How did Swedenborg arrive at his ideas? Dr. Fuller said that he used information from the anatomists and on these drew his own inductions.

What is osteopathy? Dr. Fuller noted that there is a wide range of practitioners ranging from no use of osteopathic therapy and manipulation to cranial osteopathy. The American Academy of Osteopathy website provides information regarding the practice of osteopathy.

What is spirituous fluid? Does it provide the nexus with the soul? Dr. Fuller gave his understanding of the role of this fluid as distinct from the spino-cerebral fluid.

Do ancient ideas about breathing relate to osteopathic practice? Dr. Fuller observed that Dr. Sutherland, a pioneer of osteopathy, used breathing therapies, and he noted its role in yoga.

Following President Bell’s expression of gratitude to Dr. Fuller there was appreciative applause, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M.