

larities in flora and fauna on both sides of the Atlantic. Anthropology has insisted on ethnical problems that could only be explained by land bridges, and even philology has added its word of suggestion. All these, we assume, are proofs that the memories of old Greeks and Egyptian priests were based on facts when they claimed that the Mediterranean lands had once been in touch with an Atlantic race. The Biblical narrative of a Flood in ancient times was possibly also based in its literal narrative, taken from the Ancient Word, upon a racial memory not inconsistent with its internal sense.

DR. C. E. DOERING: AN APPRECIATION

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On the twenty-second of May in 1907, the Rev. Frank Sewall, President of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, received a letter reporting the activities of the committee of five appointed by the Board of Directors to take the proper legal steps to incorporate the Swedenborg Scientific Association in the State of Pennsylvania. The letter states:

“These gentlemen had the charter drawn up in proper form and the matter was taken up with the courts of Philadelphia, who on the 20th day of October granted a charter to the five gentlemen whose names were subscribed thereto.

“The charter and By-Laws adopted by the incorporators are submitted herewith as a part of this report.”

The letter was signed “C. E. Doering.” The five signers of the charter are Frank Sewall, Reginald W. Brown, Felix A. Boericke, George M. Cooper, and Charles E. Doering.

The recent passing of Dr. C. E. Doering, on February 1st, removed from our midst the last of these five men. In fact, he outlived the next to last one, Dr. Reginald W. Brown, by about twenty years.

Although Dr. Doering did not attend the meeting held May 27–28, 1898, to organize the Swedenborg Scientific Association, his name occurs as a member of a committee during its first year of activity, and he did attend the second annual meeting in New York

City, April 13-14, 1899. As far as can be determined from the roll (see *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, vol. iii, no. 2) the only other persons who attended this meeting who are now living are Beatrice W. Childs (Mrs. N. D. Pendleton), Dr. John R. Swanton, and Mr. Anton Sellner.

The first paper appearing in the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* under the authorship of C. E. Doering is entitled "The Principia Theory of Creation." It is to be found in the December number for 1899.

Actually, the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* at this time was not yet published by the Swedenborg Scientific Association. It had been printed privately by the Rev. John Whitehead at Urbana, Ohio, since March 1898. During the first year of the existence of the Association, plans were made to publish a quarterly "Bulletin." It was tentatively arranged to make this a part of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*. However, during the year a number of events led Mr. Whitehead to offer to let the Association take over the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* (see July 1900, p. 112). That this offer was accepted is recorded in the Editorial Notes for the same issue.

The first paper by C. E. Doering in the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* after it was taken over by the Association is a short one on "The Mathematical Point" in the April issue for 1901.

At this time Mr. Doering was secretary of a very active group known as the Principia Club of Philadelphia. This group supplied much material to the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*.

In July 1903, Mr. Doering was elected Treasurer of the Swedenborg Scientific Association to fill the vacancy left by the death of its first Treasurer, Mr. Carl Hjalmar Asplundh. Except for the four years from 1910-1914, when Emil F. Stroh held this position, Mr. Doering continued as Treasurer until 1941. He continued to serve as a member of the Board of Directors until 1955, during which time he served several terms as Vice President. At the annual meeting of the Association held in 1955, Dr. Doering was elected as an Honorary Member of the Board of Directors.

The relation of Dr. Doering to the uses of the Swedenborg Scientific Association might be characterized by the words "modest" and "persistent". The term "modest" can be used because he was not a prolific writer or student. He found writing difficult. Nevertheless, his strength among more prolific writers was felt because of his persistent adherence to certain philosophical doctrines. While the origin of these doctrines for Dr. Doering was without doubt in

the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, he saw their ultimate representation in the early suggestion of them in the preparatory studies of Swedenborg.

If "modesty" and persistence" can be used to characterize Dr. Doering's intellectual contributions to the uses of the Association, they likewise can be used with reference to his relation to its business and organizational activities. Certainly it would be difficult to find better words to characterize his 34 years of careful attention to the details of the Treasurership. The total amounts of money handled were not large. However, since much of it was in very small amounts, the total "debits" and "credits" of the books at the end of the year were in no way a measure of the large amount of work connected with the use. The few who can remember Dr. Doering at the Board Meetings will recall him as an assiduous watch dog of our financial state of affairs.

For many years these Board meetings were largely a matter of give and take between Dr. Doering the Treasurer and Dr. Acton the Literary Editor. These two really constituted the operative features of the Association for several years. Dr. Acton was constantly striking out in new directions, requesting new appropriations for further publications. Dr. Doering was constantly steering the financial part of the affairs with the care and caution necessary to keep us in solvent condition. This is not to say that these two were at loggerheads. They were not. The writer of these remarks can testify from his numerous personal contacts with each of them that only affection and respect existed with each for the other. It was usually "Alfred" from Dr. Doering; and if it was occasionally "Dr. Acton," then it was a term of endearment rather than a stilted title. It was usually "Charlie" from Dr. Acton; and if it happened to be "Dr. Doering," then this too was a title of affection rather than a forced formality. Each of them performed a task according to his genius for the Association. And each recognized the use of the other. Dr. Doering's "History of the Swedenborg Scientific Association," published in the July issue of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* for 1932, in large measure is a testimony to the work done by Dr. Acton. On the other hand when Dr. Doering resigned as Treasurer in 1941, Dr. Acton commented in the Editorial Notes as follows:

". . . pleasure at the appointment of the new Treasurer is mingled with a feeling of regret at the resignation of Doctor Doering—not

regret in the sense that the Association has lost the benefit of his counsel, for he still remains a member of the Board of Directors, but a regret which is the measure of our appreciation of his long and faithful services for twenty-seven years [34? Dr. Acton counted only the last of two terms]. Throughout those years, Doctor Doering has directed the finances of the Association with great ability and prudence, and often through very trying times. His ruling policy has been, never to urge contributions, but simply to present the uses already accomplished, or yet to be accomplished, and it is largely due to his uniform persistence in this policy that the Association has been able, during the past quarter of a century, to enlist spontaneous and liberal support for its work. As Editor of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, I wish personally to voice my deep appreciation of Dr. Doering's services to our Association—and in this I am assured, the whole membership will echo my words."

Thus wrote Dr. Acton, who almost single-handed ran the literary efforts of the Association for so many years. No better testimony can be written to Dr. Doering today than to repeat the above words of one who knew better than anyone else what to say in this matter.

It is proper in these remarks to include two specific points on which Dr. Doering commented many times to the writer with reference to the work of the Association.

The first of these has already been referred to in the remarks quoted from Dr. Acton. An Association such as ours cannot exist without contributions from time to time. And so, naturally, its Treasurer is happy to receive such contributions. It is also happy to receive the results of "drives" conducted by enthusiastic supporters. However, the year in and year out support of those who see fit to join the Association and pay \$3.00 per year is the real support of the continuing uses of the Association. The principal concern of those responsible for the administration of the Association is that of furthering its purposes. Generally speaking, the people elected to its administration have not by inclination been directed toward campaign activities, or able of themselves to develop enthusiastic response through proselyting new membership. This is not to say that the Association has not at times benefited a great deal from the spontaneous assistance of some who could perform this use well. Several of the major publications printed during Dr. Doering's

term were made possible only through personal enthusiastic reponse on the part of some few members of the Association. Again, in one period of time a lagging membership was built up through the enthusiastic campaign of a few of its members. But by and large, the principal task remains a scholarly and literary one. This idea Dr. Doering supported many times.

The second point of particular interest with respect to Dr. Doering's attitude toward the uses of the Association was his regard for the necessity of its tasks. These, he felt, had to be done. He often said; "If the Association did not do these things, then some other organization would have to." In later years, as the work of the Association and its administration became more and more centered in Bryn Athyn, he modified this statement. "If the Association did not do these things, then the Academy would have to." And as all of us close to the work of the Association know full well, it is really the Academy which does support the uses of the Association—the Academy which was Dr. Doering's real love for so many years of his full and useful life.

PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

Philosophy vs. Theology: Already in the discussion on the two approaches to philosophy, a distinction has been drawn between philosophy and theology. But in addition, as in the case of science vs. religion, there has been in the history of thought a so-called "conflict" between philosophy and theology.

This conflict has likewise been resolved by the growth of an attitude in which theologians and philosophers mutually ignore each other. Sometimes this attitude has been formalized. This is done by those religionists, on the one hand, who question the use of philosophy in any respect; and by philosophers, on the other—as in the case of Kant—who question whether there can be any metaphysics; that is, any serious study of objects transcendent to the sensations given immediately to man.

In these Notes, in discussing the nature and the state of philosophy, it was pointed out that according to the view of Maritain, the nature of philosophy is independent of theology, whereas the state is not. For example, Christian philosophy brings to philosophy