

## IN MEMORIAM

During the past year seven members of the Swedenborg Scientific Association have departed from this world. None of these deaths can be called insignificant. Whenever a member is taken from among us, the Association experiences both regret for the loss and gratitude for the support the member had given.

Two of the lives that ended in 1959 deserve special recognition in the records of the organization. Mrs. Robert Cole, who died on New Year's Day, and Mrs. Thorsten Sigstedt, whose last day on earth was Palm Sunday, both left behind them works that are destined to influence the course of the Association's efforts in the future.

Wertha Pendleton Cole contributed directly to the better understanding of Swedenborg's work in astronomy. She was driven by an affection for science that manifested itself early in her life and led her to enter enthusiastically into what was then considered men's work. As a lady scientist, she had far fewer predecessors than successors, and her leadership in the field found expression in her contacts as a teacher and administrator in the Academy schools. She has had a great influence on the scientific attitude of many present and future members of the Association.

Cyriel Odhner Sigstedt responded to a need that has been apparent since before the Association was founded. An organization devoted to the study of one man's works owes a debt of eternal gratitude to that man's biographer. *The Swedenborg Epic* so far exceeds anything done before it in its completeness and its warmly affirmative treatment that no serious student of Swedenborg can afford to overlook it. And the zeal that produced that opus also led the author to perform other tasks for the Association that are important in their own right—documentations and interpretations that give new continuity and meaning to the historical details of Swedenborg's life.

The Swedenborg Scientific Association is proud to have numbered these women among its members. Each of them has had a share in carrying forward the organization's uses that could not be equalled by any man. Their joining the Association had an effect on its character that cannot be reversed by their departure. Their accomplishments stand as perpetual monuments to their memory.