

EDITORIAL NOTES

With this issue we begin a series entitled "Lectures On The Philosophy of Swedenborg's Principia" by Bishop George de Charms. This issue carries two of the seven lectures which were originally given during the meetings of the Educational Council of the Schools of the General Church held in Bryn Athyn at its 1963 Summer Session.

This is the first series of studies the NEW PHILOSOPHY has been able to offer its readers since the completion in January 1956 of the series on "The Human Mind" by Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner. If present plans are carried out the series by Bishop de Charms will be completed in five issues. It is hoped that in a future issue comments on these lectures can be added.

An index of the seven lectures is included in this issue. And your attention is especially called to the fact that whereas the first six lectures specifically devote themselves to *The Principia*, the last one entitled "The Value of Swedenborg's Philosophical Works to New Church Education" has a broader content.

We welcome in this issue a letter from the Reverend Martin Pryke, Pastor of the Olivet Church of the New Jerusalem in Toronto, Canada, commenting on the relative importance of the scientific and philosophical works of Swedenborg to the Writings.

Although the purposes of the S. S. A. as clearly stated at its beginning are devoted to those works of Swedenborg preceding the Theological Writings, most of the writers who have contributed to the work of the Association are also believers in the Writings, and certainly a large proportion of these accept those Writings as Revelation. Although occasionally there has been a person who has seemed to elevate some of the earlier works to the level of importance of the Writings, this has hardly created a school of thought to contend with. We are not, therefore, concerned with this sort of emphasis. Nevertheless the sort of concern expressed by Mr. Pryke is important because we are always interested in the relative position of the philosophical works to the Writings. Others have views somewhat similar to Mr. Pryke's, but we hear about them only by word of mouth, not in writing. Thanks to

Mr. Pryke these ideas can be studied over by readers of this journal.

The only significant rebuttal the editor cares to mention against the letter is that as editor he is not very conscious of an over-emphasis on studies of the philosophical works. At least if there has been any considerable emphasis by anyone, the results might be usefully submitted for consideration as publishable.

We include in this issue some remarks from a letter by Mr. Paul J. Simonetti because they introduce a number of ideas which might be developed by someone philosophically. We wish also to acknowledge other recent communications relative to various matters connected with the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*. Among the writers of these letters are Mr. Fred C. Frazee, Mrs. Clarence Hotson, Rev. Leslie Marshall and Mr. Robert Bray Wingate.

Some of our remarks in the Philosophical Notes in this issue grew out of a personal letter to the editor from the Reverend Martin Pryke, as will be evident upon reading.

Furthermore, because of certain suggestions relative to the Philosophical Notes in the past some of them in this issue are a somewhat expanded treatment of a technical concept used over and over again in philosophical discussions, namely "formal arguments" and "content." A criticism has been leveled at the "Notes" that often they begin in the middle of things without adequate explanation. If readers upon reading these notes would like to have other explanations in the notes, please let your wishes be known to the editor.

Otherwise a large part of the Notes in this issue grew out of considerations concerning the effects of philosophical and scientific ideas in education. Certainly it seems that the relation of belief, truth, and academic freedom have a growing importance in these times of intellectual torments.