

EDITORIAL REMARKS

The New Philosophy In Electronic Form

The Swedenborg Scientific Association begins its 102nd year of the journal with this issue. Until recently the SSA offered back issues to 1898; however, this is no longer possible because of space restraints for storage.

To offset this loss all issues are now being scanned. Once the job is done, any back issues or selected articles can be provided on request. In addition, having the journal in this form will facilitate the creation of an index. So while we regret the loss of availability in the original format, we will be able to provide our clients with what is needed in the new form.

In This Issue

We are delighted to welcome a new author, Stephen Conroy, to the journal. His article "The Spiritual Substance Debate" places the subject in historical context by introducing issues that form the backdrop to the debate itself. Central to this is consideration of the nature of Swedenborg's science. Mr. Conroy states that "Bishop W.F. Pendleton was wholeheartedly behind the endeavor to correlate the Writings with both modern science and the pre-theological works" drawing our attention to an early expression of the religion-science debate that continues to this day, both within Swedenborgian circles and beyond. The article then goes on to detail the spiritual substance debate within an historical framework. Of especial value is the "Unabridged List of Articles Shaping Debate Through 1916: Chronologically Ordered" included at the end of the article.

Reuben P. Bell's article "Spiritual Considerations for Health and Disease" is very timely in the context of present-day recognition of the need to go beyond the material in considerations of health issues. He observes, however, that "Modern medicine is a method of the 'quick fix,' a marvel of technological success. But it is obvious that it fixes only exteriors, leaving spiritual causes unaddressed." Dr. Bell's treatment of the subject provides responses to this circumstance from a Swedenborgian perspective.

Christian Wolff (1679–1774) was a very significant figure in the history of European philosophy during his lifetime. In a study titled “Christian Wolff and Swedenborg” Kurt Nemitz presents the first part of a series, beginning with accounts of Wolff’s life, his place in 18th century Europe, and his philosophy.

Swedenborg is widely respected for his contributions to the science of the brain. Charles E. Gross provides a summary of these in his “Emanuel Swedenborg: A Neuroscientist before His Time” published in THE NEUROSCIENTIST in 1997, reprinted in this issue. The author has also published a book titled *Brain, Vision, Memory: Tales in the History of Neuroscience* (MIT Press 1998, ISBN 0-262-07186-X) in which he devotes a section (Chapter 3, pp. 118–134) to Swedenborg.

In Notes and Comments we have included a letter from Ernest Farrington, physician, to Alfred Stroth. The contents are too many to examine in detail at this time because a wealth of research would be necessary for this. I simply note that subjects included concern “New Church science” and related topics that touch on issues in the spiritual substance debate.