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NOTES BY THE EDITOR

With this writing, I lay down my pen as editor of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*—a pen which I first took up in July 1909, more than forty-four years ago. In my first editorial, I deplored the decrease in the membership of the Association and the increase in dues unpaid by our members and subscribers—about forty per cent. Yet, despite this appearance of apathy, there was in fact great interest and activity in the study of Swedenborg's scientific works. This was due mainly to the work of Miss Beekman, who came upon the scene in the year (1898) when our Association was founded.

The first organized effort to arouse the interest of New Churchmen in Swedenborg's earlier works was made in 1845 when Wilkinson, Clissold, Strutt and others organized the Swedenborg Association. The result of their work was the appearance of works thitherto inaccessible to the English reader: the *Principia*, *Miscellaneous Observations*, and *Chemistry*.* The Association also published *De Fibra*, and *Opuscula Philosophica* containing small works never before published.

The last of these publications was in 1847, but it was due to the interest aroused by the Association that Dr. Tafel, in 1848 and 1849, published the thitherto unknown manuscripts *De Sensibus*, *De Anima*, and *De Generatione*.

After 1849, interest in Swedenborg's earlier works seems to have almost died out, though there was some revival in 1862 when

* Dr. Wilkinson's translation of the *Animal Kingdom* had been published in 1843, and Mr. Clissold's translation of the *Economy of the Animal Kingdom* in 1845 shortly before the founding of the Swedenborg Association. He then presented the whole edition to the Association.

the London Swedenborg Society laid aside a fund for the publication of Swedenborg's earlier works, but the only result was the publication twenty years later of Dr. Rudolf Tafel's unfinished translation of the *Brain*.

Interest was again revived in 1898 with the founding of the Swedenborg Scientific Association. Coincident with that, as I have said, came Miss Beekman. It had been generally acknowledged that Swedenborg was prepared for his high mission by his previous studies, and in the Academy College the scientific works were used as textbooks; but there was little correlation with the teachings of the Writings. Miss Beekman's teachings were fundamental in their impress. They set forth in clear light, not only that Swedenborg was prepared, but how he was prepared, and the effect of that preparation on the reading of the Writings.

There was then, especially in the General Church, a great revival of interest in the study both of the scientific works and of the Writings, and a new enthusiasm in the study. This was the case when I became editor of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*. Now, however, there seems to be less general interest, although in the Academy College and Theological School, the fruits of Miss Beekman's studies are still in evidence.

It is true that, financially, the Association has been generously supported, and the means have always been found to carry out its undertakings. But for the vigorous growth of the Association, more than financial support is needed. Owing to the Association, nearly all Swedenborg's earlier works are now open to the English reader. Can we hope for a greater interest in the reading and study of those works? for a revival of groups meeting regularly for such study?