

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

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No. 3

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, May 27th 1952.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by the President, Prof. Edward F. Allen.

Upon motion, the reading of the **Minutes** of the last Annual Meeting was dispensed with, and they were adopted as printed in the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* for July 1951.

The Chairman appointed Mr. William R. Cooper a **Committee on the Roll**. Mr. Cooper later reported an attendance of 124 persons, 63 of whom were Members of the Association.

The Chairman then reported that the Board of Directors had appointed a **Nominating Committee**, consisting of Messrs. David R. Simons, Ralph H. McClarren, and Kenneth P. Synnestvedt. Also that Messrs. Frank Rose and Robert Junge had agreed to act as **Judges of Election**.

It was then moved and seconded that we proceed to the **Election of Officers**. *Carried.*

Rev. David R. Simons, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, thereupon reported the following nominations:

For President: Prof. Edward F. Allen.

For Board of Directors: Dr. Alfred Acton, the Misses B. G. Briscoe and Morna Hyatt, and Messrs. R. W. Childs, Charles S. Cole, Charles E. Doering, W. C. Henderson, Wilfred Howard, H. Lj. Odhner, Joel Pitcairn, and L. I. Tafel.

It was then moved and seconded, that we proceed to vote by ballot, and voting sheets were distributed by the Judges of Election.

There being only one Nominee for President, the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for Prof. Edward F. Allen as President for the coming year, whereupon Prof. Allen was duly declared elected.

Mr. Richard Goerwitz moved, and it was duly seconded, that Dr. Alfred Acton be voted on by Acclamation. The vote being taken, Dr. Acton thereupon received the unanimous vote of the meeting.

The President then asked the Members to vote for eight of the ten names then placed in nomination.

The Judges of Election later reported that the following eight members, having received the highest number of votes, were elected as members of the Board of Directors: Miss B. G. Briscoe, Messrs. Charles S. Cole, C. E. Doering, C. W. Henderson, Wilfred Howard, H. Lj. Odhner, Joel Pitcairn, and L. I. Tafel.

The **Report of the Treasurer** was then called for and read by Miss Beryl G. Briscoe. The Treasurer reported a balance in the general account of \$847.48, the Membership of the Association now being at 278.

Upon motion, the Report was accepted and ordered filed.

The **Report of the Literary Editor** was then read, and upon motion was accepted and ordered filed.

The **Report of the Board of Directors** was read, and upon motion was accepted and ordered filed.

The Secretary then read a **Chapter Report** from Hurstville, Australia.

President Allen then asked if any members wished to comment on the Reports.

In regard to the Treasurer's Report, Miss Lyris Hyatt asked if it would not be advantageous to place the funds of the Association in a bank giving a larger rate of interest; and Mr. Allen replied that the Board of Directors had already taken this matter under advisement and that a committee had been appointed to take what action seemed advisable.

President Allen then stated that he himself would like to make a brief comment on the Report of the Literary Editor. On the Association's behalf, he wished to express his pleasure that, while Dr. Acton had found it necessary to retire from his work in the Academy, he would yet be able to continue his literary work and his

editorship of the NEW PHILOSOPHY; and, furthermore, he wished to express the thanks of the Members of the Association to Dr. Acton for his willingness to continue in this work. In regard to the need for more material, he felt convinced that the Board of Directors could guarantee to Dr. Acton the additional studies of a scholastic nature necessary to fill the pages of the NEW PHILOSOPHY.

Mr. R. W. Childs also expressed his pleasure at Dr. Acton's continued Editorship, and referred to the action of the Board in promising to find material for the NEW PHILOSOPHY.

President Allen, acting as Chairman and Moderator, then introduced the subject of the evening, which was a Symposium on Swedenborg's *Rational Psychology*, the following four speakers taking part in the proceedings:

Mr. Joel Pitcairn discussed certain scientific and mathematical aspects of the *Rational Psychology*, especially in regard to the development of Swedenborg's concept of the Pure Intellect.

Bishop W. D. Pendleton discussed the development and relation of the work to Swedenborg's Doctrine of Correspondence.

Rev. Hugo Lj. Odhner discussed the value of the work to the New Church in regard to Swedenborg's treatment of the moral virtues; and, in conclusion,

Bishop George de Charms discussed the value of the work to the future development of the New Church. He pointed out that, while it was not necessary for all New Churchmen to read and study the *Rational Psychology*, nevertheless a study of the work was needed for the scholars of the Church, especially in its bearing on the development of New Church Education. In this field, it had indeed performed a great use to the Church, its influence from the beginning of the Academy's work in education having been great; and he was convinced that, in our future development in this field, its influence and effect on our mode of thinking will increase with every generation.

President Allen then expressed the appreciation of the meeting to the above speakers for their contribution to a very successful treatment of the subject of the evening, after which the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Prior to the evening meeting, an informal supper was served at the Casa Conti, at which 78 members and friends were present.

Under the able direction of Mr. Randolph W. Childs, who acted as Toastmaster, appropriate songs were sung, and three short speeches were delivered by Messrs. Charles S. Cole, Leon Rhodes, and H. F. Pitcairn, discussing the subject of "The Need for a Wider Interest in Swedenborg's Philosophical Works." *

WILFRED HOWARD
Secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1951-1952

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Association, three meetings of the Board have been held on the following dates: May 24, 1951, March 11, and May 27, 1952.

At the meeting held on May 24, 1951, the following Officers were elected:

Vice-President: Dr. Charles E. Doering
Editor of the NEW PHILOSOPHY and Literary Editor of the Association: Dr. Alfred Acton
Treasurer: Miss Beryl G. Briscoe
Secretary: Mr. Wilfred Howard

At the meeting of March 11, 1952, the Treasurer reported that, as a result of our coöperation with the Military Service Committee of the General Church in presenting (upon request) free copies of the NEW PHILOSOPHY to New Church Service men, 16 applications for the NEW PHILOSOPHY had been received. It was thereupon agreed to continue such presentations, with the proviso that a written request for renewal from all those New Church Service men who still wished to receive the Journal be sent to the Treasurer in January of each year.

In response to a request from the Swedenborg Society of London, it was agreed to authorize them to fix the price per volume of the New Edition of the *Rational Psychology*, sold within the Sterling Area, at their discretion.

Action was taken with the object of investing a portion of the funds now held in the Publication Account.

* For further particulars respecting this banquet, see *New Church Life*, August 1952.

Upon request of Mr. W. G. Nord, President of the Swedish American Historical Museum of Philadelphia, the Treasurer was authorized to send to Mr. Nord, for exhibition purposes, such works of our own publications as can be spared.

At the meeting of May 27, 1952, the question of possible new publications was discussed. Plans were made for the Annual Meetings, and other routine business occupied the attention of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

WILFRED HOWARD
Secretary

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 27, 1952, the following Officers were elected:

Vice-President: Dr. Charles E. Doering
Editor of the NEW PHILOSOPHY and Literary Editor of the Association: Dr. Alfred Acton
Treasurer: Miss Beryl G. Briscoe
Secretary: Mr. Wilfred Howard

WILFRED HOWARD
Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 27, 1952

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Receipts

Dues	\$799.27	
Subscriptions to the NEW PHILOSOPHY	34.29	\$833.56
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Contributions	131.00	
Cash held in General Account for Publication Fund	168.34	\$1132.90
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Balance, May 24, 1951	697.58	\$1830.48
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Expenditures

Printing and mailing 4 issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY	\$ 951.70	
Office expense	31.30	983.00
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Balance in General Account: May 27, 1952	\$ 847.48	

PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

Receipts

Publications sold	\$221.99	
Income from City of New York Cor- porate Stock	117.00	
Interest (H. V. T. Savings Account)	25.53	\$ 364.52
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Balance in Huntingdon Valley Trust Savings Account, May 24, 1951	4026.14	\$4390.66
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Expenditures

Books purchased for Members	\$ 8.81	
Expenses for mailing and wrapping, etc.	4.68	
100 sets <i>Rational Psychology</i> sheets shipped to Swedenborg Society, London	40.16	
Balance on publication receipts held in General Account	168.34	\$ 221.99
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Balance in Publication Account: May 27, 1952	\$4168.67	
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RECAPITULATION

Balance in General Account	\$ 847.48
Balance in Publication Account	4168.67
8 shares, The City of New York Corporate Stock, 3 per cent	3900.00
1 U. S. Savings Bond, Series F, purchased June 2, 1945	740.00
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	\$9656.15
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BOOKS SOLD

The Cerebrum	2 sets		
The Economy of the Animal Kingdom	3 sets		
Generation	5 copies		
The Infinite	1		
Letters and Memorials of Emanuel Swedenborg	4		
Ontology	3		
Rational Psychology	33		
Scient. and Philosophical Treatises, Pts. I and II	2		
The Senses	2		
Tremulation	3		
Worship and Love of God	1		
Return Kingdom (L. Beekman)	2		
Swedenborg as a Physical Scientist (H. Dingle)	1		
Emanuel Swedenborg as a Geologist (A. G. Nahorst) ..	1		
The Principles of the New Philosophy (H. Lj. Odhner)	2		
Emanuel Swedenborg, Anatomist and Physiologist (G. Retzius)	2		
	—		
		67	copies
Back issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY	10		
	—		
		77	

MEMBERSHIP

Membership reported May 24, 1951	283		
Lapsed	1		
Resigned	5		
Died	8	14	269
	—	—	
New Members			9
			—
			278

Respectfully submitted,

BERYL G. BRISCOE
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE LITERARY EDITOR

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, four issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY have been published, namely, July and October 1951, and January and April 1952. These issues have totaled 128 pages, as follows :

Editorial Notes, Reviews, etc.	34 pp.
Transactions	9 pp.
Articles	60 pp.
Swedenborg's <i>Animal Kingdom</i> (adapted by Dr. Gladish)	25 pp.
	—
	128 pp.

I am finding it increasingly difficult to fill the pages of the NEW PHILOSOPHY, and in two issues have been obliged to reprint articles from early numbers of the journal. I do not see how I can continue to publish the NEW PHILOSOPHY unless I receive more contributions from our members. When in the past I was printing translations of Swedenborg's works, I had no difficulty, but now no translation is being printed.

Respectfully submitted,

May 27, 1952

ALFRED ACTON

REPORT OF THE HURSTVILLE CHAPTER

Our Chapter has met regularly each month except for January and February during the last year.

All meetings have been devoted to the reading and discussion of the *Rational Psychology* and of articles in recent issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY.

Though our membership is small at the present time, other members of the New Church Society here are becoming interested in our activities, and we are hopeful of gaining more financial support for the Association in the ensuing year.

O. HELDON

Chapter President

REPORT OF THE GLENVIEW CHAPTER

[The following Report from the Rev. Elmo C. Acton, Chairman of the Glenview Chapter, arrived too late to be read at the Annual Meeting:]

The Glenview Chapter of the Swedenborg Scientific Association sends greeting to the Annual Meeting. May the important work of the Association grow and prosper.

We have met weekly during the year. This year we followed a course of reading all the Prefaces to the Scientific and Philosophic works. This has proved most interesting. Some of the early Prefaces were quite flowery and reflected the specific interests of the times in which they were written. For instance, one of them contained an impassioned plea for antivivisection.

We have also read the NEW PHILOSOPHY with great interest. This is a valuable publication and we hope it may long continue.

ELMO C. ACTON
Chairman

SWEDENBORG'S "RATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY" THE PANEL DISCUSSION

This discussion was held at the Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Association, May 27, 1952, the panel consisting of Mr. Joel Pitcairn, Bishop W. D. Pendleton, and Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner, with Prof. Edward F. Allen in the Chair.

Chairman: I am sure that the members of the panel need no introduction to this audience. It will be our purpose this evening to consider some of the aspects of Swedenborg's work entitled *Rational Psychology*, written by him in 1742.

The meaning of the term "psychology" as used in this title is very much wider in its application than the modern term. It will be our effort to consider several levels of thought by which one can enter into a study of psychology as used by Swedenborg.

Mr. Joel Pitcairn will step out of character for a while, as student of pure mathematics and professionally as an applied mathematician, into the domain of the philosophy of science. Bishop Willard Pendleton, on the other hand, will step out of his more customary role as educator and theologian into the region of philosophy, while Dr. Odhner will leave his more usual fields of theology and philosophy and enter into the moral implications of psychology.

Our panel members are thus bounding their grounds of consideration, for a time at least, to the limitations set by the fact