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REVIEWS

SWEDENBORG AND THE NEW COSMOLOGY by the Rev. Clifford Harley. Missionary Society of the New Church, London; pp. 31. Price, stiff paper cover ls. 6d., bound 3s. 0d.

A small but valuable booklet, the reading of which should stimulate and instruct every student who would enter more deeply into the teachings of the Writings respecting creation. Mr. Harley makes use of a wide knowledge of modern cosmological theories. Over against these he sets Swedenborg's doctrine as set forth in the *Principia*—a doctrine which, to quote Mr. Harley's words, "certainly laid in his mind the foundations on which the later majestic structure would be erected" (p. 13).

The booklet, besides being instructive, also raises in the thoughtful mind a question which it does not answer. The author defines the finite as being that which is created (p. 6). Later he speaks of "a universe of spiritual substance" which stands in "a causal relation to the space-time universe" (p. 16), and of whose substances "is compounded a spiritual body" (p. 29). One is left wondering whether there are two created finite universes, and how the causal world, if finite and created with substances that are compounded into bodies, is yet devoid of space. Perhaps Mr. Harley, in a future brochure, will give some thought to this subject.

THE LAST JUDGMENT AND BABYLON DESTROYED—ALSO A CONTINUATION CONCERNING THE LAST JUDGMENT AND THE SPIRITUAL WORLD. The Swedenborg Society (Inc.), London, 1951; pp. 110 + 10 pages of Notes and Indices. Price 3s. 6d.

This is an entirely new translation made by the Rev. P. H. Johnson with the hope that "it will have a greater appeal to the modern reader." Its English does indeed make smooth reading, and in many cases Mr. Johnson has been very happy in his choice of words and phrases. I have great sympathy with the desire to

translate the Writings into smooth English. Unfortunately, however, this striving for smooth English is often accompanied with wholly unnecessary disregard of Swedenborg's language. This is sometimes the case in the present translation, despite its many excellent features. Let me illustrate :

*The Present Work**Literal Translation*

The heavenly abodes are certainly in heaven (no. 9).

No one has hitherto been acquainted with the fact that [etc.] . . . nor has even known what the spiritual sense is (no. 1).

The evils by which they were joined in the hells (Cont'n no. 19).

The angels found it strange (no. 27).

The Jews are outstanding in their ignorance of the fact that they are in the spiritual world, being quite sure that they are still in the natural world (Cont'n no. 82).

The last thing of order is in man. In this ultimate, etc. (no. 20).

The angelic abodes are indeed in heaven.

No one has hitherto known that [etc.] . . . nor even what the spiritual sense is.

The evils by which they made one with the hells.

The angels were greatly surprised.

The Jews more than others are unaware that they are in the spiritual world, thinking that they are still in the natural world.

The ultimate of order is in man. In this ultimate, etc.

There is a difference between "last" and "ultimate." "Last" can be applied to things on the same plane, but "ultimate" is peculiarly fitting to express the last of a discrete series.

The same criticism applies to the translation of "prior" and "posterior" as "earlier" and "later," in the following: "There is so constant a link from first to last things that they constitute a single thing in which what is earlier cannot be separated from what is later" (no. 93).

Instead of "The Last Judgment upon the Reformed" (Cont'n no. 14), the translation has "The Last Judgment upon those of the

reformed church." This is not only poor English since it leads the reader to expect a following "who," but it is wholly unnecessary; for the Latin word *reformati* has exactly the same meaning as the English word reformed. When spelt with a capital, it means Protestants.

Despite what I must regard as its imperfections, Mr. Johnson's translation has many instances of literal yet smooth and felicitous translation, and is deserving of study by future translators.

The book is published in attractive form, and is furnished with an Index of Subjects and of Scripture Passages, besides some valuable biographical notes on persons mentioned in the text.

SWEDENBORG'S CHEMISTRY

BY ROBERT M. COLE, Ph.D.

No one can contemplate the dynamic magic of the interior of the atom without experiencing a feeling of awe. Nor is that feeling lessened when the mind begins to grapple with the marvelous timing in the atom, and the incredible velocities, not to mention the interplay of forces so prodigious that the mind is bewildered and the imagination baffled. No timepiece has ever been made that even approximates their precision. Nothing compares with them in durability. Of surpassing beauty of design, thermo- and electro-dynamically perfect, self-contained solar systems in miniature, clocks of uncanny precision, building blocks of the Universe, released by the hand of the Creator some three billion years ago, and still keeping perfect time.

Because of the role relegated to the atoms, their almost limitless diversity of function is the more readily understood. Atom building, and transmutation in the Sun, liberates energy which is emitted as light, falls on vegetation, and is stored up as chemical energy. Aeons later, man may transport this ancient sunshine of the carboniferous age and, in some frigid, arctic waste, may convert his dwelling into a tropical oasis. His iron monsters of today are grazing, as it were, on the sunlight that fell on the Cambrian Fields.

Without the sun, all life on the planet would become extinct, all matter would become crystalline and sink into the zero state of en-