

brought the work of the reproduction of the manuscripts forward toward its successful completion a generation later.

It remains only to be added that although the 58 large volumes that constitute the physical results of the work of reproducing the Swedenborg manuscripts are in themselves a sufficient testimony to the dedication and persistence of all men and women involved in that use, nevertheless, the real memorial and lasting influence of their love and work will be realized only when we in our scholarship and publishing return to the originals they have made available to us.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This issue is dedicated to books and consists of three parts. The first part is a republication of the *Catalogus* of books from Swedenborg's personal library which were auctioned following his death. This was the original list reprinted in facsimile in 1907 but has long since been out of print. Included also is a comment by A. H. Stroh on his discovery of this list. This is extracted from a report originally printed in *New Church Life*.

Second is an article by Mr. Lennart O. Alfelt growing out of his work as Curator of the library devoted to Swedenborgiana at the Academy of the New Church.

The third part consists of two extracts concerning Swedenborg taken from a recent issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. Both Professor Otho Heilman and Dr. P. R. Cronlund called the editor's attention to these.

Copies of two letters are added. Senior readers of our journal will perhaps be interested in the letter from Herbert Hoover to Dr. Alfred Acton. Hoover was Secretary of Commerce at the time he wrote the letter. In an article entitled "Room 17" I recalled a conversation I had with Dr. Acton who was then editor of the NEW PHILOSOPHY.

In 1912 Herbert Hoover and his wife had translated Agricola's *De Re Metallica* from the Latin.

Dr. Acton told me that when the Academy obtained a copy of Hoover's translated Agricola in 1926, he had written Mr. Hoover trying to interest him in translating Swedenborg's work on Copper. Mr. Hoover answered, stating that he doubted if he would have time. Dr. Acton added whimsically, "I note he had time to become President of the United States among other things afterwards." (*The Academy Journal*—Literary Number 1961-62, p. 21.)

At the time of the writing of this article for the *Academy Journal* the Hoover letter could not be located. Recently Dr. Acton's daughter Benita (Mrs. Vincent Odhner) came across the letter in some of Dr. Acton's papers. I thank her for remembering my earlier request to have a copy.

Many readers of Swedenborg have grown accustomed to misconceptions being circulated concerning him. That he was still living on earth in 1919 is, however, one that is a rare reversal on Swedenborg's own statement that during the eighteenth century he visited the spiritual world. The second letter—quite in contrast to the one from Herbert Hoover—was found recently in the Archives of the Academy of the New Church by Professor Eldric Klein, Archivist. We on our end had performed our own twist, for although the letter was addressed to

Mr. Emanuel Swedenborg
c/o The New Philosophy

a note on the envelope says "refer to Rev. W. B. Caldwell" who was Editor of *New Church Life*, not the NEW PHILOSOPHY. As I recall, Mr. Caldwell had his own form of humor, and if anyone runs across his answer I would like to see it.

E. F. A.

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG (1688–1772), NATURAL
SCIENTIST, NEUROPHYSIOLOGIST,
THEOLOGIAN *

Emanuel Swedenborg, better known for his writings in theosophy than in science, was born "Swedberg," in Stockholm; however, he spent the greater portion of his early life in Uppsala where his father, a Lutheran bishop, lived in comfortable circumstances.¹ Even as a youth his mind was engaged in contemplation of God, salvation, and the spiritual ills of man. After attending the university at Uppsala where he concentrated on mathematics and mining, he began the first of several extended tours of England and the Continent, studying the natural sciences, conducting experiments, and making acquaintances with the learned men of his

* Reprinted from JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association, Vol. 206, No. 4, Oct. 21, 1968, pp. 887–8.

¹ Rodgers, R. R.: Swedenborg, the Philosopher and Theologian, *Trans. Int. Swedenborg Congr.*, 1910, pp. 269–284.