

Although the conception of the cerebral cortex as the seat of mental abilities to some degree already had been covered, Swedenborg seems to have arrived at his conclusions in part by experiments in animals but mainly by the recording and comparing of a large number of autopsies at universities in Sweden, England, and elsewhere in Europe.

Swedenborg localized hemiplegia to the brain and paraplegia to the spinal cord, and arrived at a conception of the function of the basal ganglia, which was considered not only to collect afferent impulses but also to initiate automatic movements. He also is said to have been familiar with the importance of corpora quadrigemina for the movement of the pupils, and to have discovered the central canal of the spinal cord and the connection between fila olfactor and the cerebrospinal fluid.

His theologian activities increased about the same time and in 1743 he claimed that he had received a Divine commission to disclose the spiritual sense of the Scripture which differed in many respects with existing beliefs. He died in London within an hour of the time he had predicted and is buried in the Cathedral of Uppsala. The New Church, or New Jerusalem Church, which accepts his philosophy and theology, was organized in London in 1783.

Swedenborg was honored postally by Sweden in 1936 on the 250th anniversary of his birth.—Mirt, J. A., "Medical Pathfinders on Postage Stamps."

TWO HISTORICAL LETTERS

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON

May 3, 1926.

Rev. Alfred Acton,
Swedenborg Scientific Association,
Bryn Athyn, Pa.

My dear Dr. Acton :

I am greatly obliged for your letter of May 1st.

Some years ago when I was interested in the translation of Agricola, I also found great interest in Swedenborg's work in relation to the minerals. The time of my life has now passed

when activities of this kind, delightful as they are, can any longer be undertaken. The translation of such work requires the assistance of someone who has a knowledge of science as well as of languages.

Perhaps some mining engineer would be interested in undertaking it, although I know of no one at the present time.

I am much interested in your review on Swedenborg's Work on Iron. I thank you for sending it to me.

Yours faithfully

[signed]

HERBERT HOOVER

HH.JCM

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BOSTON

19 June 1919

Mr. Emanuel Swedenborg
c/o The New Philosophy
9 N. Queen St.
Lancaster, Pa.

My dear Mr. Swedenborg:

I was so much impressed by your article ON THE SOUL which appeared in THE NEW PHILOSOPHY, that it occurred to me that possibly you might have sufficient material on hand to make a book.

If this is the case, I should be very glad to consider such a manuscript with a view to publication. You may be sure that anything you care to send in will receive my prompt and careful attention.

I trust I may have the pleasure of hearing from you in the near future.

Faithfully yours,

RICHARD G. BADGER

Ruth Hill

Editor-in-Chief

RH/F