

## EDITORIAL NOTES

## EDWARD F. ALLEN, AN APPRECIATION

Faced with the increasing demands on his time and thought made by his work on the development of new courses in philosophy at The Academy of the New Church College, Professor Edward F. Allen has resigned as Editor of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, a post he assumed in 1961 after having been active in the Swedenborg Scientific Association in various capacities since the 1930's.

Professor Allen brought to his editorship a broad scientific background and an intense interest in the philosophic implications of modern science. This interest has widened in recent years to include a great variety of aspects and applications of philosophy with special emphasis on bringing New Church philosophy and Swedenborg's philosophy into a fruitful dialogue with present day philosophic trends. His "Philosophical Notes" reveal a mind which combines inquisitiveness, artistic perspective and a sense of wonder that gives a highly personal touch to his writing on the pages of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*.

Professor Allen's retirement as Editor does not mean that his contributions to the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* will cease, however. On the contrary, he hopes soon to find more time for literary activities, some of which will, no doubt, appear in this *JOURNAL*. As a matter of fact, our January 1971 issue will contain both an address by Professor Allen and a continuation of his "Philosophical Notes."

For us on the Editorial Board it has been a pleasure to work with Prof. Allen, and I am sure that the members of the Association and other readers of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* will join with us in expressing sincere thanks to him for his untiring work on the *JOURNAL* during the years of his editorship.

## THE FUTURE

I have asked Messrs. Donald C. Fitzpatrick, Jr. and Kenneth Rose to continue to serve as an Editorial Board. Their experienced help and advice will be much appreciated.

There is no intention at the present time to change the general policies of NEW PHILOSOPHY. I will, however, make an effort to widen the basis for contributions to the JOURNAL with the understanding that these contributions need not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the Editorial Board, or the Association.

To find sufficient and suitable material for publication has been a problem for some years. Most people who are interested in the aims of the Association and this JOURNAL find that they do not have the time for the research and writing required to produce a paper with some substance to it. And I can sympathize with their situation. Yet, what makes a journal like the NEW PHILOSOPHY interesting and stimulating is often not its being filled from cover to cover with scholarly papers (though they certainly are essential) but rather the addition of a variety of material such as reviews of books or articles, reflections on various subjects, reports from seminars and discussion groups, reactions to material published in the JOURNAL, etc.

The writing of a page or two on a subject that caught your interest and made you reflect on it in terms of Swedenborg's philosophy or New Church doctrine in general would not require much time yet could be of great value to our readers. And speaking of value, if you are of a modest character (which most of our readers are, I am sure), do not throw your contribution in the wastebasket yourself. Let us have a chance to look at it and possibly publish it.

I would especially urge those of our members working in the academic world outside the Academy, as both teachers and students, to write about their respective fields of study in terms of their New Church background. How does this background influence your outlook (philosophy) in meeting the challenges posed by the various philosophies of science and psychology? Is your background of New Church (Swedenborg's) philosophy sufficient (relatively speaking)? If not what should be done? And, on the other hand, have the challenges given you a deeper perspective on your New Church philosophy? Should we borrow from "The Egyptians," and if so, What?

## THIS ISSUE

"Correspondence" in the popular conception of the word means letters, the writing of letters, or communication by exchange of letters; the essential idea being communication. New Churchmen have an added, deeper, and indeed unique concept of the meaning of the word derived from the theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg. To them "correspondence" expresses the relation between a spiritual cause and its natural effect—a fundamental law in creation, the systematic presentation of which is known as the *Doctrine of Correspondence*, the "science of sciences." Quite a few studies on this vast subject have been made in the past—and from various vantage points. We are happy to be able to present in this issue a study by the Rev. Erik Sandström in which the universality of the correspondential relationship in creation is presented in an unusually simple but powerful way. The several facets of the subject, carefully chiseled out by Mr. Sandström, reveal the inner beauty and dynamic character of the doctrine. Some of the aspects appear quite new and open up avenues to a deeper understanding of how the manifold structure of creation forms an essential, living unity.

Mr. Sandström, after having been pastor to New Church societies in Sweden and England for a number of years, came to Bryn Athyn in 1963 to take up his present position as a professor of Theology and Religion at the Academy of the New Church.

One of the main characteristics of the structure of creation is expressed and described by the doctrine of series and degrees. The development of this doctrine can be traced through almost the whole of Swedenborg's literary production. Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner has traced this development and the results are presented in this issue in the form of tables, covering Swedenborg's works from 1717 to 1771. Dr. Odhner is well-known for a long (more than 50 years) and often trail-blazing scholarship in New Church doctrine and philosophy. His literary output is impressive, including several books and pamphlets and a great number of magazine articles of which many have appeared on the pages of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*.

L. O. A.