

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

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No. 3

TRANSACTIONS OF THE SIXTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Sixtieth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, May 15th, 1957.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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, 1956.

The Chairman appointed Miss Lyris Hyatt a **Committee on the Roll**. Miss Hyatt later reported an attendance of 54 persons, 37 of whom were members of the Association.

The Chairman then reported that a **Nominating Committee** had been appointed by the Board of Directors, consisting of Messrs. John C. Echols and John Posey.

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

Mr. John C. Echols, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, then reported as follows:

For President: Prof. Edward F. Allen.

For Board of Directors: Miss Morna Hyatt; Messrs. Randolph W. Childs, Charles S. Cole, W. Cairns Henderson, Hugo Lj. Odhner, Ralph McClarren, Joel Pitcairn, Kenneth Rose, and Dr. Leonard I. Tafel.

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.

There being no nominees for the Board of Directors other than those presented by Mr. Echols, the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the above-named nominees, whereupon they were duly declared elected.

Mr. John C. Echols then moved, that the retiring Secretary, Mr. Wilfred Howard, be nominated for election to Honorary Membership of the Board of Directors.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The **Report of the Treasurer** was then called for and read by Miss Beryl G. Briscoe, who reported a balance in the General Account of \$1758.28, and in the Publication Account of \$658.91. In discussing the report Miss Briscoe pointed out that a discrepancy of \$157.71 existed in the amounts received from dues, subscriptions to the NEW PHILOSOPHY and contributions, and the cost of printing the NEW PHILOSOPHY plus the general expenses, making it necessary to withdraw the above sum from the Publication Fund.

The number of books sold during the year was 192, and our membership now stands at 272.

The **Report of the Editorial Board** of the NEW PHILOSOPHY was then read by the Executive Editor. In addition to the formal report, Mr. Henderson discussed the difficulties that we now face in obtaining sufficient material to fill the journal, in view of the completion of Dr. Acton's work of translation which in the past occupied so many of its pages. New writers however had appeared in the last two years, and others are in prospect, but he was convinced that the situation called for a greater awareness, on the part of the members of the Association, of the need of contributing the fruits of their studies for publication, especially from our faculty members in the fields of science and philosophy, and also from our professionals in other fields.

Mr. George Schnarr then read a report from the Kitchener Chapter of the Association, and the Secretary read a report from the Toronto Chapter.

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

President Allen then presented the following **Memorial Resolution**:

During the past year one has passed from our midst into the

spiritual world who had long been active in the uses of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

Dr. Charles E. Doering began to contribute to the work of the Association during the first year of its existence, served for 34 years as its Treasurer, and also for several years as its Vice-President. He was the last living member of the five signers of the Charter of the Association granted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1907.

Dr. Doering testified through word and deed to his faith in the philosophical principles in the works of Swedenborg, and also to his belief that the work of the Association is a necessity.

Those who worked with him feel keenly the loss of his presence, but the force that was behind his affirmation of what he believed to be true is still felt by them, and it will continue to influence the uses that are directed toward the preservation and teaching of that truth. Therefore be it

Resolved: that this Association record and spread upon its Minutes its appreciation of Dr. Doering's services in the interest of this Association, and also its keen sense of loss due to his death on February 1, 1957, in his 86th year.

The Resolution was carried by a rising vote.

The **President's Report** was read by Prof. Allen, who reviewed the activities of the Association during the past year and discussed some of the problems that face us in the future, stressing in particular the need of encouraging and stimulating the younger minds of the present generation to support more actively the work and uses of the Association.

The President then invited Dr. Charles R. Pendleton to give the Annual Address, entitled "Swedenborg's Concept of Space." The address consisted largely of a digest of three papers previously given on The History of the Concept of Space, The Concept of Space and Swedenborg's Philosophic Works, and The Concept of Space and the Writings.

The paper was briefly discussed by Messrs. Joel Pitcairn and Hugo Lj. Odhner. Dr. Odhner questioned some interpretations made by Dr. Pendleton in regard to Tridimensionality and the Monads of Leibnitz.

The meeting then adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

WILFRED HOWARD, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1956-1957

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Association, three meetings of the Board have been held on the following dates: May 23, 1956, February 24 and May 15, 1957.

Informal meetings have also been held by the President and members of the Editorial Board.

At the meeting of May 23, 1956, the following officers were elected:

Vice-President: Prof. Charles S. Cole.

Executive Editor of the NEW PHILOSOPHY: Rev. W. Cairns Henderson.

Members of the Editorial Board: Rev. Hugo Lj. Odhner, Prof. Edward F. Allen, Miss Morna Hyatt.

Treasurer: Miss Beryl G. Briscoe.

Secretary: Mr. Wilfred Howard.

At this meeting the President appointed a committee with power to act to arrange for meetings for the coming year in collaboration with the Civic and Social Club.

The arrangements for the Annual Meeting mainly occupied the attention of the Board at the February meeting.

At the meeting of May 15th, the Annual Reports of the President, Treasurer, and Editorial Board were presented and discussed and appropriate actions taken.

The question of ways and means of attracting new members to the Association was discussed at some length, together with the advisability of establishing at this time an associate membership.

President Allen presented a Memorial Resolution expressing our deep sense of loss at the recent passing to the spiritual world of Dr. Charles E. Doering.

Arrangements for the continuation of our joint meetings with the Civic and Social Club, together with other routine business, also occupied the attention of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

WILFRED HOWARD, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 15, 1957

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Receipts

Dues	\$744.09		
Subscriptions to the NEW PHILOSOPHY	45.88	\$789.97	
Contributions		100.10	
Cash held in General Account for Publication Fund	622.26		\$1512.33
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Balance, May 23, 1956		1293.33	\$2805.66
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Expenditures

Printing and mailing 4 issues of the NEW PHI- LOSOPHY		\$932.80	
Safe Deposit Box		4.40	
Office Expense		100.48	
Editorial		5.00	
Annual Notice		4.70	\$1047.38
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Balance in General Account: May 15, 1957			\$1758.28

PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

Receipts

Publications sold	\$643.37		
Tax receipts		6.04	
Income from City of New York Cor- porate Stock	117.00		
Interest (H. V. T.) Savings Account .	6.22		
Interest (H. V. Fed. Savings and Loan Association)	6.62		\$779.25
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Balance in Publication Account, May 23, 1956 .		529.07	\$1308.32
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The Senses	5 copies
Soils and Mud	3 “
Swedish Royal Academy Edition	3 sets
Tremulation	5 copies
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	192
Catalogus Bibliothecae	3 copies
A Classified List	3 “
Reprints, Prologue to the A.K.	1 “
Swedenborg as a Physical Scientist (Dingle)	1 “
NEW PHILOSOPHY, 1953–1955 and 1950–1955 (= 36 issues)	2 sets
NEW PHILOSOPHY, Back Issues	26 copies
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	228

MEMBERSHIP

Membership reported May 23, 1956	272
Lapsed	2
Resigned	5
Died	5 12
	— —
	260
New Members	12
	—
	272

Respectfully submitted,

B. G. BRISCOE, *Treasurer*

REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Four issues of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* have appeared since the last Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association—April, July and October, 1956, and January, 1957. The issue for April, 1957, was unavoidably delayed but is now in page proof and should be published shortly.

During the period under review we have had the pleasure of welcoming several new writers to the pages of the journal. The late appearance of nearly every issue is evidence, however, that the editorial board has not yet been able to overcome the difficulty

dealt with in its last report, that of filling the pages with original articles. We are happy to announce that the next three issues will carry a series of articles by Dr. C. R. Pendleton which represent an extended consideration of the subject dealt with in the Annual Address.

The editorial board is still seeking ways to make the journal serve the uses of the Association more effectively and to enlarge the number of contributors. In announcing that new writers are in prospect, the board renews its invitation to members of the faculty of the Academy—especially those in the Departments of Philosophy and Science—to regard the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* as a publication outlet for their research studies, and to professional men to let our readers know about the problems they meet in relating Swedenborg's teachings with current findings in their fields.

Respectfully submitted,

W. CAIRNS HENDERSON,
Executive Editor

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

In addition to the detailed reports of the activities of the Association as given in the reports of its officers—the Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor—I have thought it useful to discuss briefly a more general aspect of the life of the Association.

These thoughts may have been prompted by the recent passing, within two years, of two of my old teachers, friends and coworkers—Dr. Acton and Dr. Doering. These thoughts may have been further stimulated by a recent conversation with our Secretary, Mr. Howard, about some early events in the Association. Dr. Acton was Editor of the *NEW PHILOSOPHY* for forty-five years, Dr. Doering was Treasurer for thirty-four years, Mr. Howard is completing his thirty-seventh year as Secretary. These are long terms of service. We are thankful to those who served so faithfully for so long. Not one word that is said is to be taken otherwise than as a support to this thanks. But it is not enough that *they* have served. The purposes of the Association are big ones and much requires to be done. And services well done by others can indeed be our own undoing, if we have grown to depend upon them—especially if we have grown accustomed to have the deeds to be done, done by others.

There is a special danger to the continuance of uses when they are well done by a few for a long time. The felt need for the doing of these uses does not easily pass down to coming generations. The way of an institution becomes associated with the way things have been done for two generations or more. Other things in the world have developed along with what some people call progress. And young people who come along know only these new developments. And while they may have an affection for the older generation, it nevertheless *is* the older generation for them; and for them, the older generation belongs to the things of that generation.

And so I have thought we have a practical problem of bringing younger minds into the uses of the Association. It is the desire to have these younger minds apply themselves to the study of philosophy, and especially to the understanding and application of that philosophy which is given in the works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

Several suggestions have come to me that represent good and sincere ideas on improving the material wealth of the Association. I have no doubt, as I see buildings and many other signs of the availability of material things to the uses of church and school, that it would be rather easy for these ideas to materialize. And I know that there are those available whose ability and efficiency could implement this materialization, far better perhaps than the average person who is today trying to carry on the uses of the Association. But the question is, to what purpose would such materialization of resources be directed?

Our problem is more difficult. It involves the sowing in the minds of young potential scholars the desire to seek after truth, to investigate the means of acquiring truth; and while an Association can assert its objectives in this manner, whether or not it can succeed finally comes down to the individual initiative of people who are able to devote themselves to the search and investigations necessary.

I do not think that these views are those of one, as it could be said, who is "dragging his heels." I think it is rather the defining of a problem that is a hard one and a deep one; albeit *our application* to that problem does not seem to appear so big—especially in a generation in which almost everything that *is* done is done in a much bigger way than ever before.

I think we are making some progress in recent years. The NEW PHILOSOPHY is publishing papers by new writers—and people who are younger are showing an interest. Several potential contributors have given a continued consideration to their potentialities during the last year or so. It is hoped that soon the pages of our journal will reflect these considerations.

During the last year we have had an increased number of open meetings at which prepared lectures were given. Mr. Wilfred Howard and Mr. Kenneth Rose each delivered a lecture at the Civic and Social Club in Bryn Athyn. Dr. C. R. Pendleton delivered three special lectures at the Academy to the Faculty and others.

We are well ahead of plans as they are usually at this time for next year because Dr. William Whitehead has agreed to give two lectures at our evening meetings at the Civic and Social Club. These talks are entitled: "The Political Philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg," and "Swedenborg and the Economic Life."

REPORT OF THE KITCHENER PHILOSOPHY CLUB

Since our last report, there have been some changes in our Society—the Rev. Norman Reuter having accepted a call to Detroit, and the Rev. Geoffrey Childs now being our Pastor.

At our first meeting with our new Pastor, it was decided to have only one meeting a month instead of two. As a result of this, we had only seven meetings this year. The average attendance was six. We have twelve subscribers to the NEW PHILOSOPHY. We are now reading the first volume of the *Principia*.

The Philosophy Club suffered a great loss in the death of Dr. Robert W. Schnarr this year. His keen interest in Swedenborg's philosophy, and his generous sharing of his knowledge of the scientific works were a source of inspiration to the members of the Club.

GEORGE SCHNARR, *Secretary*

REPORT OF THE PHILOSOPHY GROUP IN TORONTO

Our reading group here in Toronto has asked me to send you an informal note to say that we are still extant.

We have now completed our reading of the first two chapters of the *Principia*, and have read and discussed several articles from the NEW PHILOSOPHY.

We wish to send a message of greeting to your Annual Meeting, and hope that your deliberations will be successful and useful in furthering the understanding of Swedenborg's Philosophical Works.

Sincerely,

EDITH CARTER,
for the Group

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held on May 15, 1957, the following officers were elected:

Vice-President: Mr. Charles S. Cole.

Editorial Board: Rev. W. Cairns Henderson, *Executive Editor*,
Miss Morna Hyatt, Messrs. Edward F. Allen, Hugo Lj.
Odhner.

Treasurer: Miss Beryl G. Briscoe.

Secretary: Miss Morna Hyatt.

MORNA HYATT, *Secretary*