

NOTES BY THE EDITOR

In assuming the editorship relinquished by Dr. Alfred Acton we would first pay tribute to his distinguished and arduous labors. The volumes of *THE NEW PHILOSOPHY* issued since July 1909 record permanently work which has signally advanced the uses undertaken by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, and which has therefore been of service to the New Church as a whole. It is proposed to publish in the next issue an article which will review the history of this journal during the forty-four years of Dr. Acton's editorship.

We are happy to publish in this issue the concluding installment of Dr. Acton's biography of Miss Lillian Beekman and, in the form of Book Notes, some reviews for which space could not be found in the last issue. The review by Mr. Charles S. Cole initiates a new policy of the Editorial Board, that of publishing extended reviews of books which, by their nature and content, lend themselves to the presentation of some aspect of the relation of the principles taught in the scientific and philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg to the science and philosophy of the present day. A similar use will be served, it is hoped, by the Philosophical Notes, a department to be conducted by Professor Edward F. Allen.

During the many years of Dr. Acton's editorship *THE NEW PHILOSOPHY* has been devoted largely to furthering the first purpose of the Association: "The preservation, translation, publication, and distribution of the scientific and philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg." Although certain things remain untranslated, the need to be served by this purpose has been largely met, and the remainder of the work must await a translator and editor of equal competence. For these reasons it is the intention of the Editorial Board to attempt to direct the journal principally to the second purpose of the Association: "The promotion of the principles taught in these works, having in view likewise their relation to the science and philosophy of the present day."

If this is to be done, if the magazine is to be devoted mainly to the exposition of the scientific and philosophical principles con-

tained in Swedenborg's works, there will be need for the co-operation of those writers in the Church who are interested in the field to be examined. Literary contributions are therefore invited and will receive careful consideration.

BOOK REVIEW

MAN, THE CHEMICAL MACHINE. By Ernest Borek. Columbia University Press. New York, New York, Cloth, pp. 219; price, \$3.00.

This book is written by a biochemist teacher-research worker with the purpose of describing in popular terms what is known today about the chemical structure and chemical mechanism of living things, particularly the human body. Although it is not the only book of its kind, as the book jacket says, or even the best, *Man, the Chemical Machine* is a fairly interesting account of the chemistry of the living body, as known to modern science.

Our interest in this book lies not so much in its technical features as in the fact that it is loaded throughout with atheistic, naturalistic propaganda. This is covered over in spots with a veneer of interesting, scientific information. In some places, the veneer is transparent, and the author's bias shows through for what it is, namely, a scientifically unsupported naturalistic prejudice.

Probably Dr. Borek did not intentionally camouflage his naturalism, although he does at first give that impression. Actually, toward the end of the book, he presents a completely unvarnished plea for naturalism. In fact, he goes much further than that and attacks as unreasonable and unscientific those scientists who express their belief in truth beyond nature. In doing this, he reveals a naive logical inconsistency which is surprisingly common among naturalists, namely, the conviction that the philosophical assumptions of naturalism or materialism are consistent with, and a proper part of, the objective detachment of the scientist, whereas the assumptions of other schools of philosophy, such as dualism, are absolutely inconsistent with scientific objectivity.

Thus Dr. Borek ridicules the dualism of mind and matter espoused by the "spiritual descendants of Descartes" on the ground that "the chemist can correlate the gross chemical functions