

# THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

VOL. LVIII

JULY, 1955

No. 3

## TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Fifty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, May 25, 1955.

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, 1954.

The Chairman appointed Mr. William R. Cooper a **Committee on the Roll**. Mr. Cooper later reported an attendance of 96 persons, 55 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. Edward Cranch, E. Bruce Glenn, and John Posey, and also that Messrs. Alfred Acton II and John Posey had agreed to act as **Judges of Election**.

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

The President then stated that Dr. Alfred Acton and Dr. C. E. Doering had both expressed a desire to retire from active membership on the Board. The Board, at its last meeting, had thereupon passed the following resolutions, which he would ask the Secretary to read:

*Resolved:* That at the Annual Meeting of the Association to be held at 8.0 p.m., May 25, 1955, Dr. Alfred Acton be nominated for election to Honorary Membership of the Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

*Resolved:* That at the Annual Meeting of the Association to be held at 8.0 p.m., May 25, 1955, Dr. Charles E. Doering be nominated for election to Honorary Membership of the Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

The Secretary then moved the nomination of Dr. Alfred Acton and Dr. Charles E. Doering as Honorary Members of the Board. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Thereupon they were duly declared elected as Honorary Members of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Edward Cranch, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, then reported as follows:

*For President:* Prof. Edward F. Allen

*For Board of Directors:* Miss Beryl G. Briscoe, Messrs. Charles S. Cole, Randolph W. Childs, W. Cairns Henderson, Wilfred Howard, Ralph H. McClarren, Hugo Lj. Odhner, Joel Pitcairn, and 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 additional nominees for the Board of Directors other than those presented by Mr. Cranch, the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the above-named nominees, whereupon they were duly declared elected.

The **Report of the Treasurer** was then called for and read by Miss Beryl G. Briscoe. The Report showed a balance of \$730.74 in the General Account, and \$851.04 in the Publication Account. The total number of books sold was 143, an increase of 19 over the previous year. 16 new members have joined the Association this year, and our present membership is 270. Upon motion, the Report was accepted and ordered filed.

The **Report of the Editorial Board** of the NEW PHILOSOPHY was then read by the Executive Editor, and upon motion was accepted and ordered filed.

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

The Secretary then read Reports from Chapters of the Association in Glenview, Ill., and Kitchener, Ont., Canada. The Reports were accepted and ordered filed.

Upon invitation of President Allen, Mr. Kenneth Rose then delivered the Annual Address on the subject of "Machines that Think."

An interesting discussion followed the reading of the paper, in which the following gentlemen took part: Messrs. O. W. Heilman, H. Lj. Odhner, Raymond Pitcairn, R. H. McClarren, W. D. Pendleton, and President Allen.

Mr. Allen, in expressing appreciation of the paper, spoke of the lucid manner in which many of the technical details of the subject had been treated, and also gave a brief outline of a series of lectures that Mr. Rose had given to a small study group.

The Rev. H. Lj. Odhner discussed the paper from the viewpoint of Swedenborg's doctrine, that affections are changes of state of the organic substances of the mind, that thought is the variation in the form of these substances, and that memory is the permanence of these states. He also discussed some Cartesian concepts of the mind, in relation to those of Swedenborg.

Mr. Raymond Pitcairn asked the question as to whether the paper would be of interest to, or be received by, the scientific and philosophic world.

President Allen, in reply, cited some of his own experiences and the difficulties he encountered in attempting to impress the scientific mind regarding the value of our philosophy and its relation to science.

Mr. McClarren, after expressing his appreciation of the paper, discussed the question posed by Mr. Pitcairn. From his own experience in scientific circles, he was convinced that many would read the paper with interest, but as to how far they would agree with Mr. Rose's conclusions was of course another question. He was convinced, however, that the experiment should be tried, and he suggested that when the paper was published in the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, a number of reprints be made and circulated amongst those who wished to use them; the cost would be reasonable, and the experiment well worth while.

Bishop W. D. Pendleton, whilst not opposing the suggested circulation of Mr. Rose's paper in circles other than our own, pointed out the difficulties that the average scientist would encounter in trying to comprehend our philosophy and terminology. To the modern scientist, the term "pure intellect," for instance, would have as much meaning as an abstract mathematical formula would have for him. He expressed his delight in the paper, and thought it a brilliant exposition of how our New Church students should spoil the Egyptians. He then discussed some of the many factors that are involved in the spiritual make up of the mind, such as the relation of love as a determining factor in the mind's faculty of perception, and the laws of correspondence that are involved in the process. In conclusion, he

At the meeting of May 25, action was taken nominating Dr. Alfred Acton and Dr. Charles E. Doering as Honorary Members of the Board. The report of the President, and other Reports were read and discussed. Action was taken authorizing the Cuneo Press to proceed with the printing of the *Psychological Transactions*, which is promised for September. It was also agreed to hold two meetings of the Association in collaboration with the Civic and Social Club. The subject of Junior Membership was also considered.

Arrangements for the Annual Meeting, and other routine business also occupied the attention of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

WILFRED HOWARD, *Secretary*

### OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held May 25, 1955, the following Officers were elected:

*Vice-President:* Mr. Charles S. Cole

*Editorial Board:* Rev. W. Cairns Henderson, Executive Editor,  
and Messrs. E. F. Allen, Charles S. Cole and Hugo Lj. Odhner

*Treasurer:* Miss Beryl G. Briscoe

*Secretary:* Mr. Wilfred Howard

WILFRED HOWARD, *Secretary*

### REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The problem of administration of the Swedenborg Scientific Association is a peculiar one for two reasons: *First*—In this day and age, an institution with our limited amount of talents and resources that pretends to be scientific and philosophical is a strange one indeed; one that is incomprehensible to either the scientific or the philosophical mind generally. *Second*—While our administration involves a certain amount of business, of planning, and of organization as they are usually understood, our principal concern is more in the development and preservation of knowledge; the development and preservation of knowledge in a very general sense academically speaking but with a very special objective practically speaking.

The continuance of such an institution, and the manifest performance of its uses are possible only through the constant return in our thinking to the purposes for which we exist.

These are stated in every issue of our journal, the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, on the inside cover, as follows :

- I. The preservation, translation, publication and distribution of the Scientific and Philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg.
- II. The promotion of the principles taught in these works, having in view likewise their relation to the science and philosophy of the present day.

No revolutionary change in the Swedenborg Scientific Association can be expected if we hold to these purposes ; however, we hope to be able to extend the means by which they are carried out.

Those of us who have been in the uses of the Church for a generation or more must have become aware of a certain disposition on the part of some to credit the man Swedenborg with attainments in such a vast array of intellectual fields as to stun the average thinking mind, and, on the other hand, seem to have a reluctance to recognize in the works of Swedenborg the one distinctive and crowning result, namely, that they contain the Writings which are Revelation.

If there is one thing that the Swedenborg Scientific Association can do in carrying out its purposes, it is to help to construct and preserve a balanced and intellectual evaluation of the work of the man Swedenborg as contrasted with the Revelator.

Most of us in the Church hold that the works of Swedenborg with which our organization concerns itself are the products of the man Swedenborg as a scientist and philosopher, but that through these works, he was being prepared for the task of Revelator.

The principal products of our organization in the past were the result of emphasis upon our first purpose, namely, preservation, translation, publication and distribution of the scientific and philosophical works. Three achievements came from committees set up by the Association over forty years ago : 1. The work on *The Senses* was translated and published through the efforts primarily of Professor E. S. Price. 2. Considerable reference material in typescript and photo reproduction is on deposit in libraries due to

the efforts of Dr. Alfred Acton, Dr. R. W. Brown, Dr. E. E. Jungerich, Prof. Alfred H. Stroh, and Mrs. Cyriel Odhner Sigstedt. 3. And, finally, there are the many translations and studies by Dr. Acton during the many years he was Literary Editor of the Association.

The principal concern of the Association for the past year and a half since Dr. Acton's retirement as Editor is whether or not the new generation—which had really produced very little previously—could be instruments in a kind of rebirth.

We have consciously placed more emphasis on the second purpose, namely, the promotion of the principles taught in the philosophical works, having in their view their relation to the science and philosophy of the present day.

We have not lost sight of the first purpose in this shifting of emphasis. In fact, Dr. Acton continues to hold that purpose up through his work in finishing the second volume of *The Letters and Memorials of Emanuel Swedenborg*. Necessarily we cannot, without available scholarship, go further in translation at this time.

Our other efforts may be summarized with respect to three matters to which we have directed our attention.

*First:* As the Report of Mr. W. Cairns Henderson, the Editor, indicates, we are trying to spread the uses of our Association by the initiation of new writers and the introduction of new topics.

*Second:* We are making a modest drive for new membership. I say "modest" because this drive is in terms of what we have to offer. Many of our members maintain their membership because of loyalty to the things for which we stand. However, if our production in our journal and our meetings has any worth, we will be supported for these things too. We invite all who are interested to join—if possible, both man and wife. At the present time, two things can be noted of a very practical nature in this respect: 1. We need about forty new members at three dollars apiece to meet our expenses. 2. The slight downward trend in our membership, or the tendency to "barely hold our own" seems to be arrested. There is a slight increase in our membership.

*Third:* We are also making a modest drive to increase the development of our uses. Again I say "modest" because we are limited by our talents. However, in so far as they permit, we have started a two program per year undertaking with the Bryn Athyn Civic

and Social Club. Also a lectureship in places other than Bryn Athyn has been discussed.

If there has been too much use of the term "modest," it is not because we are more passive than active. It is because we feel that if we are to grow, it must be because of real worth. We have enough spirit and promotional ability in our organization and in our immediate environment to do bigger things with a bigger bang. But when everything is said and done, the final test of the worthwhileness of our activities depends upon the will, the ability, and the effectiveness with which our individual supporters can carry out the tasks proper to an institution directed to study, development, and writing of the principles that lie at the basis of our philosophy.

E. F. A.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 25, 1955

### GENERAL ACCOUNT

#### *Receipts*

Dues .....	\$753.19	
Subscriptions to the NEW PHILOSOPHY .....	47.16	\$800.35
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Contributions .....	60.35	
Cash held in General Account for Publication Fund .....	52.73	\$ 913.43
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Balance, May 19, 1954 .....	908.36	\$1821.79
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#### *Expenditures*

Printing and mailing 4 issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY .....	\$ 904.25	
Reprints (750) <i>Prologue to Animal Kingdom</i> .....	35.68	
Office Expense .....	116.24	
Record Tape .....	34.88	1091.05
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance in General Account: May 25, 1955 .....		730.74

## PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

*Receipts*

Publications sold .....	\$247.32	
Tax receipts .....	1.24	
Income from City of New York Corporate Stock .....	117.00	
Interest (H. V. T. Savings Accounts) .....	14.25	
Interest (H. V. Fed. Savings and Loan Association) .....	92.95	\$ 472.76
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Balance in Publication Account, May 19, 1954	1526.84	\$1999.60
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*Expenditures*

Books purchased for Members .....	\$ 7.00	
State Taxes .....	.65	
Expenses for mailing, wrapping, etc. ....	14.58	
Binding 68 copies of the <i>Fibre</i> (including off-setting and binding 35 pp. in each copy) ...	313.45	
Purchase of 50 reams of paper for offsetting 850 sets of press sheets of 2 vols. <i>E.A.K.</i> , <i>Generation</i> , and <i>Psychologica</i> .....	760.15	
Balance on Publication Receipts held in General Account .....	52.73	\$1148.56
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Balance in Publication Account: May 25, 1955 .....		851.04

## RECAPITULATION

Balance in General Account .....	\$ 730.74
Balance in Publication Account .....	851.04
8 sh. The City of New York Corporate Stock, 3 per cent	3900.00
1 U. S. Savings Bond, Series F, purchased June 2, 1945	740.00
Hunt. Valley Fed. Savings and Loan Association .....	3000.00
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	\$9221.78



## BOOKS SOLD

The Cerebrum .....	3 sets
The Fibre .....	6 copies
Generation .....	1
The Infinite .....	2
Mechanical Inventions .....	1
A Philosopher's Note Book .....	1
Principia .....	3 sets
Psychologica .....	1
Psychological Transactions .....	1 copy
Rational Psychology .....	20 copies
Scientific and Philosophical Treatises, Pts. I and II ...	3 sets
The Senses .....	3 copies
Tremulation .....	4
Worship and Love of God .....	2
Return Kingdom of the Divine Proceeding (Lillian G. Beekman) .....	2
Principles of the New Philosophy (H. Lj. Odhner) ...	1
Emanuel Swedenborg, Anatomist and Physiologist (G. Retzius) .....	11
	<hr/>
	65
Back issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY .....	24
Reprints, Prologue to the <i>A.K.</i> .....	53
Catalogus Bibliothecae .....	1
	<hr/>
	143

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership reported May 19, 1954 .....	267
Lapsed .....	4
Resigned .....	3
Died .....	6
	<hr/>
	254
New Members .....	16
	<hr/>
	270

Respectfully submitted,

BERYL G. BRISCOE  
*Treasurer*

## REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, four issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY have been published, namely, July and October, 1954, and January and April, 1955. These issues have totaled 128 pages, as follows:

Articles .....	77½ pp.
Prologue to the <i>Animal Kingdom</i> .....	14 pp.
Transactions .....	11 pp.
Philosophical Notes .....	4½ pp.
Notes by the Editor .....	2
Reviews .....	14½ pp.
Miscellaneous .....	4½ pp.
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	128

The Board considers the reprinting of the Prologue to the *Animal Kingdom* to be one of the most important actions taken during the year. Professor Allen's two-part article, "A Course in 'Natural Philosophy,'" is the first in a projected series describing courses in Philosophy offered in the Academy of the New Church College. In the Book Review section the policy has been to include works, not necessarily new, which express ideas of some standing in the learned world that may be critically examined in the light of Swedenborg's philosophic doctrines.

For future issues the Board is planning a series of articles on Swedenborg's principal philosophic doctrines and a series on the main schools of philosophic thought. The publication of short statements defining Swedenborg's philosophic terms and showing differences in contemporary usage is also under consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

HUGO L.J. ODHNER

EDWARD F. ALLEN

C. S. COLE

W. CAIRNS HENDERSON,

*Executive Editor*

## REPORT OF THE KITCHENER PHILOSOPHY CLUB

Since our last report in May 1954, we have held twenty meetings, with an average attendance of 6. (No meetings were held in August.)

*The Fibre* and the NEW PHILOSOPHY were read, and interesting discussions followed. Our next reading will be the 1st volume of *The Principia*.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE SCHNARR  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

## REPORT OF THE GLENVIEW CHAPTER

We have met every Tuesday night during the year, except for a few Tuesdays when our leader, the Rev. Elmo C. Acton, was out of town. Previous reports told of meeting at the home of Mr. H. S. Maynard; this year saw a change of venue to the homes of other members, the consecutive meetings for about a month being at the same home. A number of the members had one or more turns at being host, but the lion's share went to the Manse.

We have a membership of 13, and an average attendance of 10 or 11.

The preceding report told of commencing the reading of Lillian Beekman's *The Return Kingdom of the Divine Proceeding*. We continued with this work to its completion, but paused in the panorama of the *Return Kingdom* each time an issue of the NEW PHILOSOPHY reached us, until we had read the issue including the covers. This novitiate to the Chapter is not able to state whether that complete reading was due solely to faithfulness to the Association, or whether there was a desire to stay for some time with sentences shorter than Miss Beekman's, and with fewer modifiers of nouns than hers. Sometimes one might have thought that the rare atmosphere of her perceptive insight was too elevated for some of us, but it was pointed out in the meetings that even her propositions that most challenged thought were based on the Revelation and Philosophical Works given through Swedenborg, with ample quotations from both.

After we had read the *Return Kingdom of the Divine Proceeding*, we read a paper which Mr. Wilfred Howard delivered to a

General Faculty meeting at the Academy of the New Church, on the History of the Theories of the Atmospheres. Our group felt that it would be valuable to have this significant study in print.

At our last meeting, we read and discussed the Presidential Address to the 1912 meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, by the Rev. Frank Sewall. It is our intention, at meetings this summer, to read other selected papers from the files of the NEW PHILOSOPHY

At a recent meeting, the question was asked: Why does the NEW PHILOSOPHY have no more of the series of adaptations from Swedenborg's *Animal Kingdom* by Dr. Donald Gladish? Some of our members said they understood that the Editorial Board felt that there was no demand for such articles by the readers of our Journal. The meeting, therefore, asked me to put us on record as having found that series of value and interest, and wishing to see them continued.

It will be seen from what has been said, that our group finds both the past and the present work of the Association and its Journal to be valuable and of sustained interest. We hope for its progress and increased activities to meet the great need of our times.

Respectfully submitted,

VICTOR J. GLADISH

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## MACHINES THAT THINK

BY KENNETH ROSE

Have you made plans for what you will do after a thinking machine takes over your job? Do not rush away and start making them now; do not reject the whole idea as ridiculous, either. A new industrial revolution is under way, carrying the same sort of hopes and fears on its crest as did the one now in its second century. We have learned that the predictions of tragedy resulting from progress are not true, but we cannot ignore the fact that the way of human life is being changed.

This might be called the age of machines that think. It is also the atomic age and the jet age. Ages in these days are scarcely under way before new ones begin, and we must learn to get