

# THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

VOL. LVI

JULY, 1953

No. 3

TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE  
FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

The Fifty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association was held at Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, May 20th, 1953.

The meeting was called to order at 8.30 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 1952.

The Chairman appointed Miss Lyris Hyatt a **Committee on the Roll**. Miss Hyatt later reported an attendance of 86 persons, 46 of whom were members of the Association.

The Chairman then reported that the Board of Directors had appointed a **Nominating Committee**, consisting of Messrs. Eldric S. Klein, Gustav Genzlinger, and Robert Junge. Also that Messrs. Bruce Glenn and Robert Junge had agreed to act as **Judges of Election**.

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

Mr. Eldric S. Klein, Chairman of the Committee on Nominations, thereupon reported as follows:

*For President:* Prof. Edward F. Allen.

*For Board of Directors:* Dr. Alfred Acton, Miss Beryl G. Briscoe, Mr. Charles S. Cole, Dr. Philip R. Cronlund, Messrs. Charles E. Doering, W. C. Henderson, Wilfred Howard, H. Lj.

Odhner, Joel Pitcairn, Mrs. Torsten Sigstedt, and Dr. Leonard I. Tafel.

It was then moved and seconded, that we proceed to vote by ballot, and voting sheets were distributed by the Judges of Election.

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.

The President then asked the Members to vote for nine of the eleven names placed in nomination.

The Judges of Election later reported that the following nine members, having received the highest number of votes, were elected as members of the Board of Directors: Miss B. G. Briscoe, Messrs. Alfred Acton, Charles S. Cole, C. E. Doering, W. Cairns Henderson, Wilfred Howard, H. Lj. Odhner, Joel Pitcairn, and Leonard I. Tafel.

The **Report of the Treasurer** was then called for and read by Miss Beryl G. Briscoe. The Treasurer reported a balance in the General Account of \$931.31, and in the Publication Account of \$1327.75. The Membership of the Association is now 275.

Upon motion, the Report was accepted and ordered filed.

The **Report of the Literary Editor** was then read by the Secretary, after which the following resolution was presented by Dr. Leonard I. Tafel:

Mr. Chairman, be it Resolved: That in rising to move the acceptance of the Report of the Literary Editor, we wish to express the appreciation of all members of the Association and of the Church at large, for the long and indefatigable service Dr. Acton has performed for the ever wider reading and acceptance of the Philosophical Works of Emanuel Swedenborg. This service has not been confined to the meticulous translations he has done, but consists also in the publishing of the quarterly organ of the Association for the past forty-four years.

From this last post, of publishing the *NEW PHILOSOPHY*, he is now tendering his resignation; but all must rejoice that he feels able to continue his work as its Literary Editor. Our warm wish is that this relationship with the Swedenborg Scientific Association will extend on for many years of continued fruitfulness.

The Resolution was seconded and carried unanimously.

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

Dr. Charles E. Doering then took the Chair, and upon invitation of the Chairman, President Allen then delivered the Annual Address on the subject of the Use of Philosophy.

A brief discussion followed, in which Mr. Charles S. Cole and Dr. Hugo Lj. Odhner expressed appreciation of the Address, after which the meeting adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

Prior to the evening meeting, a supper was served at the Casa Conti, at which 78 members and friends were present. Mr. Bruce Glenn acted as Chairman, and discussed some aspects of the relation of Modern Science to Swedenborg's Philosophy. Upon invitation of the Chairman, two College Students, namely, Hugo Odhner and Kurt Asplundh, then delivered short Addresses—Mr. Odhner speaking of certain phases of Evolution being a danger to religion, and Mr. Asplundh discussing the question of a possible slowing up of modern scientific development, in a paper entitled "Is there a Scientific Depression Ahead?"

WILFRED HOWARD, *Secretary*

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1952-1953

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Association, four meetings of the Board have been held on the following dates: May 27, 1952, January 19, February 24, and May 20, 1953.

At the meeting held on May 27, 1952, the following Officers were elected:

*Vice-President:* Dr. Charles E. Doering

*Editor of the NEW PHILOSOPHY and Literary Editor of the Association:* Dr. Alfred Acton

*Treasurer:* Miss Beryl G. Briscoe

*Secretary:* Mr. Wilfred Howard

At the meeting of January 19, 1953, action was taken authorizing the Treasurer to pay an eight per cent increase in the cost of printing the NEW PHILOSOPHY, this increase being made effective with the January issue.

Action was also taken authorizing the Treasurer to invest a portion of our funds in the Huntingdon Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association.

It was further agreed to loan to the Rev. Martin Pryke of Durban, a number of our publications, for use in a proposed library for the Native Theological School, as soon as such School is established.

For the purpose of historical record, the Treasurer was authorized to defray the cost of a tape recording of our Annual Meetings.

At the suggestion of Cav. Raffaele D'Ambrosio of Florence, Italy, it was agreed that the NEW PHILOSOPHY should be sent to the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, the largest library in Italy.

At the meeting of February 24, 1953, it was agreed to appoint a Committee to study the question of a possible reprinting, revising, or re-translating of Swedenborg's *Principia*—referred to the Association by the Swedenborg Society of London. The question of a possible reprinting, by the offset printing method, of Swedenborg's work on the *Senses* and the *Fibre* was also considered.

At the meeting of May 20, 1953, the report of the *Principia* Committee was considered, and it was agreed that the work of this Committee should be continued, and that it should consider the future publication needs of the Association.

The resignation of Dr. Acton as Editor of the NEW PHILOSOPHY, arrangements for the Annual Meeting, and matters of a routine nature 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 on May 20, 1953, the following Officers were elected:

*Vice-President:* Dr. Charles E. Doering

*Editor of the NEW PHILOSOPHY and Literary Editor of the Association:* Dr. Alfred Acton

*Treasurer:* Miss Beryl G. Briscoe

*Secretary:* Mr. Wilfred Howard

WILFRED HOWARD, *Secretary*

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 20, 1953

## GENERAL ACCOUNT

*Receipts*

Dues .....	\$759.98	
Subscriptions to the NEW PHILOSOPHY .....	24.60	\$784.58
Contributions .....	70.84	
Cash held in General Account for Publication Fund .....	235.44	\$1090.86
Balance, May 27, 1952 .....	847.48	\$1938.34

*Expenditures*

Printing and mailing 4 issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY .....	\$ 952.52	
Office Expense .....	46.89	
Editorial Expenses .....	7.62	\$1007.03
Balance in General Account: May 20, 1953 .....		\$ 931.31

## PUBLICATION ACCOUNT

*Receipts*

Publications sold .....	\$291.00	
Income from City of New York Cor- porate Stock .....	117.00	
Interest (H. V. T. Savings Account) .....	42.08	\$ 450.08
Balance in Huntingdon Valley Trust Savings Account, May 27, 1952 .....	4168.67	\$4618.75

*Expenditures*

Books purchased for Members .....	\$ 51.57	
Expenses for mailing, wrapping, etc. ....	3.99	
Balance on Publication receipts held in General Account .....	235.44	
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Funds transferred to Huntingdon Valley Fed- eral Savings and Loan Association .....	3000.00	\$3291.00
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Balance in Publication Account: May 20, 1953 .....		\$1327.75

## RECAPITULATION

Balance in General Account .....	\$ 931.31	
Balance in Publication Account .....	1327.75	
8 shares, 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	
Huntingdon Valley Federal Savings and Loan Associa- tion .....	3000.00	
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		\$9899.06
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## BOOKS SOLD

The Cerebrum .....	1 set
The Economy of the Animal Kingdom .....	4 sets
Generation .....	2 copies
The Infinite .....	4
Letters and Memorials of Emanuel Swedenborg .....	4
Mechanical Inventions .....	2
A New System of Reckoning .....	1
Ontology .....	2
A Philosopher's Note Book .....	1
Principia .....	7 sets
Psychologica .....	2 copies
Rational Psychology .....	32
Scientific and Philosophical Treatises, Pts. I and II ....	3
The Senses .....	3
Tremulation .....	3
Worship and Love of God .....	1

Emanuel Swedenborg as a Geologist (A. G. Nathorst) . . .	7
Principles of the New Philosophy (H. Lj. Odhner) . . .	5
Emanuel Swedenborg, Anatomist and Physiologist (G. Retzius) . . . . .	7
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	91
Back issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY . . . . .	17
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	108

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership reported May 27, 1952 . . . . .	278
Lapsed . . . . .	5
Resigned . . . . .	6
Died . . . . .	4
New Members . . . . .	15
	263
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	12
	<hr/>
	275

Respectfully submitted,

BERYL G. BRISCOE

*Treasurer*

## REPORT OF THE LITERARY EDITOR

Since the last Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, four issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY have been published, namely, July and October 1952, and January and April 1953. These issues have totaled 128 pages, as follows:

Editorial Notes, Reviews, etc. . . . .	23	pp.
Transactions . . . . .	8½	pp.
Articles . . . . .	88½	pp.
Swedenborg's <i>Animal Kingdom</i> (adapted by Dr. Gladish) . . . . .	8	pp.
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	128	pp.

The issue of the April 1952 number marks the close of the forty-fourth year of my editorship. At the time of my appointment in May 1909, strong emphasis was placed on the policy of devoting the pages of the NEW PHILOSOPHY to translations of Swedenborg's untranslated works, and this policy I followed. The publication of

these translation seriatim ended with the January 1947 issue, which contained the final issue of *The Letters and Memorials of Emanuel Swedenborg*. Since then I have not had the time to undertake further translations to be printed seriatim. I succeeded in getting the Rev. Norbert H. Rogers to undertake the translation of *Psychologia Rationalis*, but my efforts to get one or two others to undertake the translation of hitherto unpublished works have not succeeded. These works include:

*Codex 37*: A Mineralogist's Note Book.

*Codex 53*: Swedenborg's Extracts from Leeuwenhoek and Swammerdam. These include many Annotations by Swedenborg which throw light on his method of study.

*Codex 55*: The Brain. One half is translated and published.

*Codices 81, 82, 84, 85*: Swedenborg's first drafts for his *Opera Mineralia* treating of the Magnet, Sulphur, Silver, and Copper.

*Codex 86*: A Student's Note Book, containing Swedenborg's work on higher mathematics, and Extracts on Astronomy and Anatomy.

*Codex 88*: Containing Swedenborg's Journal, Literary Works, and Anatomical Studies during the printing of *Opera Mineralia*. Comparatively few of these Contents have been published in English translation, but the Codex—like Codex 36 (*A Philosopher's Note Book*)—should be printed as it is, for it would then furnish much information as to Swedenborg's studies. The translation would fill at least two volumes.

*Codex 99*: On Swedish Iron Furnaces.

Then there is the work on the *Senses*. Only when this work was translated and already set did the translator, Prof. Enoch S. Price, learn of the existence of the Chapters on Taste and Touch. He therefore included them as the last chapters (VIII and IX) of the work, whereas they should be chapters IV and VI. A republication of the work will therefore necessitate a renumbering of the paragraphs.

It was thought that by making more of Swedenborg's Philosophical Works available to the English reader through the pages of the NEW PHILOSOPHY, there would be increased study of those works, and that the fruits thereof would appear in the NEW PHILOSOPHY. There has undoubtedly been increased reading and study of the works, but articles for the NEW PHILOSOPHY as a

result of such study have not been sufficient to meet the needs of the NEW PHILOSOPHY. This is due, not to any lack of interest, but to the fact that most of those who might be expected to write such articles are busily engaged in developing the work of New Church Education. From time to time I have approached two or three other men, but with little success.

There are many subjects which might be discussed in the pages of the NEW PHILOSOPHY with great profit, as, for instance, Swedenborg's assertion that impregnation takes place in the ovum and not in the womb; that the coronary vessels are veins and not, as now held, veins and arteries; that the brain has intrinsic motion, and that its nerve cells are fed by the corporeal fibre; and, perhaps most needed of all, a liaison between Swedenborg's terms, especially in Chemistry and Cosmology, and the terms of modern science.

Since January 1947, in which was printed the last of the serial translations of Swedenborg's works, there have been twenty-five issues of the NEW PHILOSOPHY, comprising a total of 820 pages. These were filled as follows:

Transactions, including the Addresses .....	169
Contributed Articles, Reviews, and Translations .....	400
Reprints .....	40
Editor's Notes, Reviews, Articles, Translations of Fillers.	211
	820

It will be seen that the Editor has been called upon to write an undue proportion of the contents of the NEW PHILOSOPHY, and this because only thus could its pages be filled. This necessity has been a constant care for some years—the necessity of writing something, or translating something from Swedenborg to fill the pages of the current issue—and at my advanced years I feel that I should no longer be called upon to carry this burden. I therefore herewith resign the office of Editor, the resignation to take effect on the appearance of the October 1953 issue of the NEW PHILOSOPHY.

I am willing to contribute to the pages of the journal under its new editorship, and will undertake to write a series of articles commenting on Swedenborg's *Rational Psychology*, and also to help in other ways so far as lies in my power.

Respectfully submitted,

May 20, 1953

ALFRED ACTON