

# THE NEW PHILOSOPHY.

---

VOL. IV.

JULY, 1901.

---

No. 3.

## SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.

### FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Fourth Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, held at the rooms of the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, New York, Monday, May 27th, and Tuesday, May 28th, 1901.

#### FIRST SESSION.

MONDAY, May 27, 2:30 P. M.

193. The meeting was called to order by the President, the Rev. Frank Sewall.

194. The minutes of the last annual meeting, being in print, their reading was dispensed with.

195. The Chair appointed Mr. Carl Hj. Asplundh and the Rev. W. L. Gladish a Committee on the Roll, who subsequently reported the following members and visitors in attendance on the sessions of the Association:—

#### MEMBERS.

*Brockton, Mass.*, Rev. H. Clinton Hay; *Brooklyn, N. Y.*, Dr. Louis C. Ager, Mr. R. S. Fischer, Rev. R. H. Keep, Mrs. Bernard Peters; *Chicago, Ill.*, Rev. Lewis P. Mercer; *Chillicothe, O.*, Miss Carrie Sproat; *Contoocook, N. H.*, Rev. J. B. Spiers; *Detroit, Mich.*, Rev. E. J. E. Schreck; *Fryeburgh, Me.*, Rev. B. N. Stone; *Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*, Rev. Alfred Acton, Mr. Carl Hj. Asplundh, Mr. Wm. B. Caldwell, Mr. F. S.

Hughes, Rev. C. Th. Odhner, Rev. W. F. Pendleton, Miss Luelle Pendleton, Miss Venita Pendleton, Mr. John Pitcairn, Rev. George G. Starkey, Mr. Alfred H. Stroh, Mr. John A. Wells; *Indianapolis, Ind.*, Rev. Willis L. Gladish; *New York*, Mr. Walter C. Childs, Mr. L. S. Smyth; *North Cambridge, Mass.*, Rev. Lewis F. Hite; *Orange, N. J.*, Rev. J. S. David; *Philadelphia, Pa.*, Rev. Emil R. Cronlund; *Roxbury, Mass.*, Rev. Hiram Vrooman; *Waltham, Mass.*, Rev. John Whitehead; *Washington, D. C.*, Rev. Frank Sewall.

## VISITORS.

*Snodland, England*, Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Faraday; *Abington, Mass.*, Miss Effie Faxon, Rev. T. S. Harris; *Baltimore, Md.*, Rev. James Taylor; *Bath, Me.*, Rev. George Henry Dole; *Boston, Mass.*, Rev. Emanuel F. Goerwitz, Rev. James Reed; *Brooklyn, N. Y.*, Mr. Raymond Cranch, Mrs. R. S. Fischer, Rev. Louis G. Hoeck, Mr. Samuel A. Klein; *Buffalo, N. Y.*, Rev. F. A. Gustafson; *Cambridge, Mass.*, Rev. A. F. Frost, Mr. J. R. Hunter, Mr. H. C. Small, Rev. J. E. Werren, Mr. W. E. Ziegler; *Chillicothe, O.*, Miss Emma Sproat; *Cincinnati, O.*, Miss Emily Martin; *Cleveland, O.*, Rev. M. G. Browne; *Huntingdon Valley, Pa.*, Miss Maria C. Hogan, the Misses Jane, Alice and Lucy Potts; *Lakewood, O.*, Miss Anna Wagar; *LaPorte, Ind.*, Rev. E. D. Daniels; *Milano, Tex.*, Rev. R. B. Francisco; *New York, N. Y.*, Mr. Anton Sellner; *Orange, N. J.*, Mrs. J. S. David; *Philadelphia, Pa.*, Rev. W. H. Alden, Mrs. Edgar Parker, Mr. John W. Stockwell, Jr.; *Toronto, Canada*, Rev. and Mrs. F. L. Higgins; *Yarmouthport, Mass.*, Rev. W. H. Mayhew; *Yonkers, N. Y.*, Mrs. W. C. Childs, Miss Eliza Mitchell; Miss Bertha Whitten.

196. On motion of Mr. Schreck, the Rev. Arthur Faraday, of Snodland, Kent, England, was invited to participate in the deliberations of the meeting.

197. The report of the Board of Directors was read by the Secretary of the Board, the Rev. C. Th. Odhner, and, on motion, was accepted. [See p. 78.]

198. Supplementary to the report of the Board of Directors the reports of the Committees on the *Principia* and the *Lesser Principia* were read, and, on motion, were accepted. [See p. 83.]

199. The report of the Secretary of the Association was read and, on motion, was accepted. [See p. 79.]

200. The report of the Treasurer was read. [See p. 79.]

201. On motion, the Treasurer's report was accepted and an Auditing Committee ordered.

202. The Chairman appointed Messrs. Wells and Caldwell such a committee.

203. As the report of the Committee on the *Principia* appears to indicate that delay in the work was attributable to the English Committee, Mr. Faraday explained that the gentlemen in question were very busy men.

204. Mr. R. S. Fischer, late of Glasgow, Scotland, was invited to participate in the deliberations of the meeting, and later joined the Association.

205. Mr. Sewall continued the consideration of the *Principia* Committee report, explaining that very little delay in the publication of that work will follow the return of the manuscript after revision by the English Committee.

206. The Committee on the *Animal Kingdom* having made no formal report, Mr. Stroh stated that Mr. Doering, whom he was assisting, had completed revising the first three chapters and that these were ready to be sent to Dr. Farrington. The corrections are noted in the margin of a printed copy of the old translation.

207. The report of the Editorial Board was read and, on motion, accepted. [See p. 82.]

208. A letter by Bishop Pendleton to the President advising him that he could not be present at the meeting this evening, and that he had not prepared the paper announced in the program, but was ready to read another on the "Distinction Between Swedenborg's Science and the Writings," was read.

209. A letter by Madame Chevrier to the President indicating the interest in Swedenborg's Science and Philosophy taken in France, and propounding some questions in regard to Swedenborg's science, was read.

210. On motion, Mme. Chevrier's letter was referred to Miss Lillian Beekman.

211. The report of the "Principia Club" of Philadelphia was read. [See p. 83.]

212. The report of the "Swedenborg Philosophy Club" of Chicago was read. [See p. 84.]

213. Mr. Asplundh's "Call and Plan for the Publishing of the Swedenborg Scientific Manuscripts" referred to in the report of the Board of Directors was read and placed before the meeting for consideration. [See p. 85.]

214. Mr. Acton moved the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:

*Whereas*, The Swedenborg Scientific Association has heard with great interest the plan proposed by Mr. Asplundh for the publication of those scientific and philosophical works of Swedenborg which have not yet been published.

*Resolved*, That Mr. Asplundh's paper be referred to the Board of Directors, with the recommendation that the plan therein outlined be favorably considered and such action be taken as the Board may deem advisable.

After discussion by Messrs. Stroh, Mercer, Whitehead, Odhner, Starkey, Faraday, Fischer, Acton, Sewall and Asplundh the motion was carried unanimously.

215. After a brief recess the President delivered his Annual Address. [See p. 71.]

216. Mr. Stroh moved that the President appoint a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year, the committee to report on Tuesday morning.

217. The Chair appointed Messrs. Whitehead, Starkey and Hite.

218. Mr. Asplundh read comments received from various people in reply to the circular sent out by the Executive Committee.

219. On motion adjourned until 8 o'clock this evening.

#### SECOND SESSION.

MONDAY, May 27, 1901, 8:00 P. M.

220. The meeting was called to order by the President.

221. A communication by the Rev. Samuel Beswick, C. E., to the President with reference to a paper touching on the subject of the paper by Miss Lillian Beekman appointed to be read during the meeting was read.

222. The question of the time and place of the next annual meeting of the Association was placed before the meeting by the President, and after discussion by Messrs. Odhner, Whitehead and Pitcairn it was

*Resolved*, That the time and place of the next meeting be and they hereby are referred to the President and the Secretary of the Association, with full power.

223. The paper of the evening was then presented by Prof. Odhner, "The Doctrine of Spontaneous Generation Compared With the Theory of the Creation of Man in the *Worship and Love of God*."

224. Discussed by Messrs. Schreck, Mercer, Acton, Sewall, Hughes and Stroh, several of the speakers questioning the conclusions of the author, while all appreciated the thorough presentation of Swedenborg's teachings on the subject.

225. Moved to adjourn to 9:30 A. M. tomorrow morning.

### THIRD SESSION.

TUESDAY, May 28, 10:00 A. M.

226. The minutes of yesterday's sessions were read and approved.

227. The committee to nominate officers reported the names of the present incumbents, with the addition of three alternative names to those of the present Board of Directors:

*For President*—Rev. Frank Sewall.

*For Secretary*—Rev. E. J. E. Schreck.

*For Treasurer*—Mr. C. Hj. Asplundh.

*For Additional Members of the Board of Directors*—Rev. A. Acton, Dr. H. Farrington, Rev. W. L. Gladish, Dr. Riborg Mann, Rev. L. P. Mercer, Rev. C. Th. Odhner, Dr. J. R. Swanton, Dr. E. A. Whiston, Rev. J. Whitehead.

Rev. H. C. Hay, Mr. John Pitcairn, Dr. Edward Cranch.

228. On motion the report was accepted, and it was decided to proceed to election.

229. Messrs. Stroh and Vrooman were appointed tellers.

230. The following gentlemen were nominated from the floor: Mr. Paul Synnestvedt, the Rev. John S. Saul, the Rev. Reginald W. Brown, the Rev. Charles E. Doering.

231. Mr. Pitcairn respectfully declined the honor of the nomi-

nation by the committee, as his business engagements prevented his attending to a director's duties.

232. The Committee on the Roll made a further report.

233. The Auditing Committee desiring further time, the auditors were, on motion, instructed to report to the Secretary after adjournment. [See p. 81.]

234. The tellers reported the following result of the balloting:

*President*—Rev. Frank Sewall, 19.

*Secretary*—Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, 19.

*Treasurer*—Mr. Carl Hj. Asplundh, 19.

*Board of Directors*—Rev. L. P. Mercer, 19; Prof. Riborg Mann, 19; Rev. C. Th. Odhner, 18; Rev. John Whitehead, 17; Dr. Harvey Farrington, 17; Rev. Alfred Acton, 16; Rev. Willis L. Gladish, 13; Dr. John R. Swanton, 13; Rev. Lewis F. Hite, 8, and others scattering.

235. Mr. Whitehead moved that those nominees having received the highest number of votes be considered elected as officers of the Association. Carried unanimously, and the gentlemen named above were declared elected.

236. After a short recess Bishop Pendleton read his paper on the "Distinction Between Swedenborg's Science and the Writings." [See p. 89.]

237. On motion of Mr. Mercer discussion of the paper was postponed to allow of the reading of other papers assigned to the morning.

238. Mr. Mercer introduced and read Miss Lilian Beekman's paper on "The Identification of Hydrogen and Third Finites, With Scientific Verification of Swedenborg's Postulate."

239. Mr. Stroh read a paper on "The Value of Swedenborg's Science and Philosophy Illustrated By a Comparison of His Theories of Light and Colors With Those of Newton."

240. The completed roll was read.

241. The minutes of the morning session were read and approved.

242. On motion adjourned, subject to call by the President and Secretary.

## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

AT the close of the third year of our organization we are still unable to announce as the result of our labours the re-publication—with the exception of the work on *The Soul*—of any of the large works of Swedenborg now out of print,—in whose revision, to this end, we have been engaged. The Reports of the several editing committees show, however, that the preparation of the new edition of the *Animal Kingdom*, of the *Principia*, and also the first transcription and translation of the *Lesser Principia* are going steadily forward.

In the translation also of the treatise “On the Senses,” constituting Part IV. of the *Animal Kingdom*, a substantial beginning has been made, the numbers extending to 51 having appeared in our quarterly Bulletin, *The New Philosophy*.

The first English translation of Swedenborg’s “Notes relating to the Larger Principia,” transcribed and translated from the photo-lithographed copy of the original manuscript in Swedenborg’s Journal of Travels in the year 1733, published in *The New Philosophy* for October, 1900, is another contribution of unquestionable importance, touching as these notes do the fundamental question of Swedenborg’s own conception of the “point” as the first beginning of the finite or of nature, and also the relation of geometry to metaphysics, or, as Swedenborg states it in No. 7 of these Notes, the relation of the “point” to an “ens” and showing, if nothing more, that this “point” or “ens” is by no means identical with nothing, but is rather the egg or seed from which the whole geometric world is produced. (*New Philosophy*, Vol. III., p. 138.)

While the delay in bringing out republications of Swedenborg’s Scientific Works may seem disappointing to those of us who were ambitious to signalize our society’s organization by the speedy accomplishment of a conspicuous work, there can be no serious cause for regret on this account so long as the work of preparation is progressing in competent hands; and there are possible compensations for the delay in the increased interest in, and appreciation of the true value of, those works, which the

other labours of our Association and the circulation of our quarterly Bulletin cannot fail to bring about. By these latter means, when the republication volumes do appear they will meet an expectant demand and an intelligent interest which would not have been roused otherwise.

For the first time we have our quarterly Bulletin, *The New Philosophy*, established, with a regular list of subscribers, and a circulation reaching a considerable number of scientific students and institutions. We find on the present mailing lists twenty-five of the most important libraries in this country and in England, and forty-seven professors and eminent scientists in this country and abroad. The encouragement of this circulation will be a direct means of extending the demand for, and the usefulness of, the Scientific and Philosophical Works of Swedenborg, when these shall be ready for publication.

Meanwhile the serious studies carried on by Miss Beekman in *The New Philosophy*, on the "Mechanism of the Brain in relation to the Sleeping and Wakeful States," published in the January and July numbers, would seem to serve an important use in bringing the principles taught in a wide range of Swedenborg's works, to bear on problems that immediately interest the psychologists of today: and the brochure on "Spectrum Analysis and the Principles of Swedenborg," by the same painstaking and brilliant writer, is perhaps the most thorough attempt made since Clissold's Introduction to the *Principia*, to bring the principles of that work into touch with the most recent developments of physical science relating to light, color and undulation. It is worthy of note that in this treatise use has been made of Swedenborg's hitherto buried work—the *Lesser Principia*—a work now brought to light through the labour of our Association, and frequently referred to by Miss Beekman in her untiring researches.

Other papers of value and showing in a practical way the "relation of Swedenborg's works to the Science and Philosophy of the present day,"—to quote from the second use defined in our articles of organization,—have been published from time to time in our Bulletin, which we cannot here more particularly mention.



But I can hardly omit to mention, in addition to the new translations from Swedenborg produced during the last year, and the special studies published in the Bulletin and elsewhere, as above enumerated,—the somewhat extended discussion, in the Principia Club of Philadelphia, of the general subject of the “Credibility and Value of Swedenborg’s Scientific Writings.” However divergent the views of the distinguished leaders in the debate, there can be no doubt of the timeliness and need of just this kind of discussion; for now more than ever is it essential that students of Swedenborg should arrive at as clear a view as possible of the relative attitude of the scientific and the theological writings of our author; and in no better way can such a clearance of view be attained than in the perfectly free array of arguments from diverse points of view, especially when presented in the admirable spirit of courtesy and fairness which has everywhere characterized this debate.

Without presuming to enter here at any length upon this discussion, it may be permissible to offer a few words of suggestion which may help to bring the seemingly diverse views into a more harmonious unity. The discussion brings to light two factors in Swedenborg’s writing, which in some way have to be brought into an intelligible relation. These factors are not merely, as might first be thought, the particular scientific data mentioned in the two classes of the writings—such for instance as the data regarding the process by which matter was first created—whether by pressure from the higher atmosphere, or by the evolutions of a vortex in the infinite through the first ens and point; but the contending factors are rather the two planes of knowing on which these data are discussed by Swedenborg,—the plane of pure science and rational philosophy on the one hand, with all the freedom of investigation and conclusion that this implies, and on the other hand, the plane of the revealed truth of angelic wisdom, the *sapientia angelica*—in whose light was written the doctrine of creation in the work on the *Divine Love and Wisdom*. That there is a discrete degree between those two planes of knowing no one will deny, and there must be an equally unanimous agreement that these degrees of knowledge should not be rendered continuous by be-

ing confounded with or merged one into the other: the science must remain science; the rational faculty must retain all its freedom; the light of revealed truth must shine with its absolute clearness and undeviating authority. What we are necessarily concerned about is, not the rendering identical the two orders of statements, and thus bringing down the absolute authority of divine truth into the more or less ephemeral findings of human science, but rather the preserving between the two entirely discrete orders of truths the relation of correspondence and the end of use. Those knowledges which are true on the two discrete planes will correspond like body to soul, and the facts in the plane of science will be useful to those of revealed knowledge in illustration and in application to the uses of life.

To explain a little more definitely this position, I will venture to call to mind the statements made, in the *Divine Love and Wisdom*—regarding the creation of the world by receding and condensing atmospheres, first, Divine, then spiritual, and finally natural,—the process of *creation as seen from the standpoint of the angelic wisdom*,—or from that of a spiritual center of vision. On the other hand the views and science of creation as presented in the *Principia* we must regard as the same subject as seen from the standpoint of the human senses and the human reason, as these have been disciplined by mechanics and geometry.

It was through these gates of geometry and mechanics that Swedenborg entered upon his studies of the universe and his search for the Soul. We have his own teaching that the plane thus formed rationally and freely in his mind became the receptacle of the spiritual principles which enabled him to combine two worlds, instead of one only, in his philosophy; but I do not know that anywhere he has attempted to uproot, so to speak, a principle of spiritual truth and transplant it into the plane of sensuous science, to be there a certain immovable and unwieldy factor to embarrass free investigation; nor that he has anywhere uprooted a fact of sensuous science and transplanted that into the plane of spiritual revelation, however frequently he may adduce from the plane of natural science facts, or phenomena assumed as such, which may serve as illustrations and examples of spiritual principles in action.

Perhaps a word of caution may be useful here as to what we are to regard as spiritual science, or as science on the spiritual plane: whether, that is, all that is revealed from "things seen and heard" by mere intromission into the spiritual world, is to be regarded as for that reason divine truth or even spiritual truth, in the same sense as that which was discovered to Swedenborg "by the Lord alone while reading the Word," namely, the truths of the internal sense of the Word. The consideration of this distinction becomes important when we come to discuss the authority of any truth as revealed, in distinction from truths as scientifically or experimentally learned. How far, in other words, do even the theological writings contain knowledges acquired and truths formulated purely through human experience and the senses of the spiritual body, in addition to those truths of doctrine revealed or communicated to Swedenborg "by no spirit or angel whatever, but by the Lord alone?"

The distinction we have drawn between the knowledges acquired in the two discrete planes of the mind is one everywhere recognized by Swedenborg. Not only does he in the appendix to Part III of the *Principia* contend for the "freedom of philosophizing," but especially in his work *De Charitate* does he emphasize this independent action of the two planes of the mind; as where he speaks of charity in the soldier, as descending from the spiritual plane of the prayer to God before the battle, into the natural plane of courage and zeal for victory over the enemy, when engaged in the actual conflict. While the lower mind acts consciously, the interior mind with its ends of charity and use acts unconsciously, or in a certain quiescence, to enable the lower to act freely and of itself. The whole moral and spiritual law of the universe rests upon this action and reaction between the two planes of the mind entirely discrete and independent in their conscious action and yet bound together by the law of correspondence as well as by an influx of the internal into the external degrees according to the receptive forms of these.

It is this doctrine of the discreteness of these degrees of knowing in the human mind that has suggested the thought whether we may not regard the teaching in the *Angelic Wisdom*

regarding the creation of the natural world, as a synthesis of spiritual principles wholly above the plane of human experience but barely touching the plane of nature in the single general statement of the arising of material substance out of the remotest atmospheres proceeding from the Divine: whereas the *Principia* is an analytic process, based upon geometry, experience and mechanics, whereby the mind endeavors to mount up from things known to things unknown, from the seen to the unseen, from things of the senses to things of the spirit, and so from a science of visibles and ponderables to formulate a science of the invisibles and imponderables. This science shall reach, however, in its endeavour, only so far as to the emergence of the first finite creation out of the infinite, or to that vortical motion in the infinite to which, as seen from the standpoint of earth's geometry, and not from angelic wisdom, there is to be given the name of the mathematical points—the egg or seed of the physical universe.

The suggestion of these two tendencies, the one downward from the Divine into nature, as described in the *Angelic Wisdom*, the other upward from nature to the Divine, as described in the *Principia* and meeting in the first ens of material creation,—is even conveyed in No. 7 of Swedenborg's own notes to the *Principia*, as translated by the Rev. Reginald W. Brown, in the October number of *The New Philosophy*, p. 143, in reading which we should be careful to assign to the term "metaphysics" that Aristotelian meaning which Swedenborg undoubtedly had in mind—namely, as pertaining to the world above or beyond the physical world, thus the *meta ta physika*. It is here as near an equivalent of the term "spiritual" as Swedenborg could at that time command. He says:

If we consider the attributes of a simple ens, it is such that it enjoys only one limit; it is not limited or finited, but unlimited or unfinited; it is that from which composite or limited things proceed; it is that which cannot be geometrically resolved; it is that which cannot proceed beyond metaphysics [i. e., farther downward into matter].

Still, if such an ens is said to be produced from the infinite, and to be pure motion from the infinite, in this way geometry also approaches and seems to desire to assign to it a certain existence and figure by means of motion: both sciences therefore [i. e., geometry, the science of nature, and metaphysics, the science of spirit] have their place in the investiga-

tion of this ens: it acknowledges both at the same time, since in the point there is something which is such that from it, but by means of motion, finites may proceed; or it is such that finites may be finally resolved into it.—*Swedenborg's Notes Relating to the Larger Principia*, n. 7. Metaphysically concerning the Point.—*The New Philosophy*, Vol. III, p. 143.

Is it not possible to see that the same fixed matter which is described in *Divine Love and Wisdom*, n. 302, as "substance at rest" and as the result of the compression and consequent inertness of the atmosphere proceeding from the Divine, is traceable analytically and geometrically back through the series of elementaries, actives and finites to that first "ens" or point into which all finites may be resolved and which is itself the "pure motion from the infinite and is infinite?"

It would seem, therefore, to be a misconception of Swedenborg's method as a philosopher, to allow the invasion of the terms or concepts of physical science into the realm of spiritual truth for any other use than purely as symbols and representatives. The compression of spiritual into natural atmospheres, as described in the *Divine Love and Wisdom*, is not strictly either a doctrine of spiritual or of physical science: it is the nearest *representation* of the great truth of spiritual creation that *can be made* in terms of *physical science*. It is therefore symbolic rather than literal science. If we would have the process on its scientific side interpreted in purely scientific terms, although by the *a priori* method, we shall find this done in the *Principia*. It is only by this discrimination between Swedenborg's use of scientific terms as symbolic of spiritual processes and his use of them as actual processes on the natural plane, that we can avoid the dangerous error of placing Swedenborg among the mystics, like Jacob Boehme and Paracelsus, and destroying that discrete degree between the natural and spiritual planes of truth and of knowing which it is everywhere Swedenborg's earnest purpose to maintain. And this is the more important as we value Swedenborg's science and philosophy as claiming rightfully a vital place in the thought of the present age. For as religion, in its highest mission, presents to man's moral view the world of love; and as philosophy presents to his intellect the world as idea; so science, that youthful and bold interpreter of

the world, so lately born, has for its mission to interpret to man the world as use. And as uses are but ends in effect, the philosophy that can embrace in itself both effects and ends without detriment to the completeness of either will prove the true interpreter.

FRANK SEWALL.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Scientific Association submits the following report of its actions during the past year:

1. Since the last annual meeting of the Association the Board has met twice,—on April 20, 1900, and on May 27, 1901.
2. At the first meeting Prof. Odhner was elected Chairman of the Board, in place of Mr. E. C. Brown, resigned. At the same meeting an Executive Committee was elected, consisting of Rev. L. P. Mercer, Chairman; C. Th. Odhner, Secretary; C. Hj. Asplundh, Dr. R. Mann, and Dr. E. A. Whiston. Dr. Whiston subsequently declined the election and Rev. E. J. E. Schreck was appointed in his place.
3. This Executive Committee has supervised the work of the Association during the year, and its actions have been confirmed by the Board.
4. The Board has accepted the offer of the Rev. J. Whitehead to transfer to the Association the journal formerly published by him, and *The New Philosophy*, accordingly, has been published as the official organ of the Association since July, 1900, under the charge of Rev. L. P. Mercer, Dr. R. Mann, and Dr. H. Farrington as an Editorial Board. The report of the Board follows below:
5. The Treasurer of the Association has published a circular inviting all persons interested to join the Association and to subscribe to *The New Philosophy*. The invitation has had gratifying results, as may be seen from the subjoined report of the Treasurer.
6. At the recent meeting of the Board the Treasurer, Mr. C. Hj. Asplundh, was appointed Business Manager of *The New Philosophy*.
7. Reports, indicating progress in the work, have been received from the chairmen of the committees on the new edition of the *Principia*, and on the translation of the *Lesser Principia*, and are presented below. No report, however, has been received from the Committee on the Revision of *The Animal Kingdom*.
8. Prof. E. S. Price has been appointed chairman of a committee on the translation of Swedenborg's work, *De Sensibus*,—the beginning of which has appeared in *The New Philosophy*, and Prof. Odhner has been

appointed chairman of a committee on the translation into English of Swedenborg's early scientific treatises, which were written in Swedish.

9. The Board has listened with approval to a proposition and plan of the Treasurer for the publication, by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, of the Scientific Manuscripts of Swedenborg, which still remain unpublished in Stockholm, and earnestly recommends the same for favorable action by the Association. The proposition will be presented by the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

C. TH. ODHNER,  
*Secretary.*

---

#### REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

THE minutes and reports of the last annual meeting of the Association have been published in the July issue of *The New Philosophy*.

Since our last annual meeting four members of the Association have passed into the Spiritual World: Mr. A. J. Auchterlonie, Mr. G. Woolworth Colton, Mr. C. C. Parsons, Rev. John Worcester.

Mr. N. H. Spofford, of Milton, Mass., has resigned.

A revision of the roll of members, in accordance with the resolution in minute 160, shows a present membership of 140—of whom 91 have been added since the last meeting.

E. J. E. SCHRECK,  
*Secretary.*

---

#### REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

*To the President and Members of the Swedenborg Scientific Association:—*

IN presenting the annual report, the Treasurer thinks it may be useful to give more information concerning his department than mere figures convey.

As will be noticed from the subjoined figures, the balance at the beginning of the year was \$137.10, being the accumulation during the first two years of membership fees, which were then \$2.00 per annum. During this time the expenses were only \$28.90, owing to no definite uses involving expense having been undertaken.

At the last annual meeting it was decided to reduce the annual dues to \$1.00; to accept *The New Philosophy* as the organ of the Association, and to make the subscription price 50 cents to members and \$1.00 to non-members. The first number of the magazine published under the auspices of the Association was that for July of last year, but since the January and April numbers had been devoted to the minutes of the Association's first and second annual meetings it was agreed to pay for these also out of the treasury. As the cost of those two issues was

\$190.00, with only \$137.00 available to meet it, the Association thus came at once into debt.

The July number, which contained the minutes of the third annual meeting, was published at an expense of \$112.34, increasing the debt to over \$300.00.

Against these liabilities considerable resources were expected from the subscribers to *The New Philosophy*, as its mail-list contained 460 addresses. Of these, however, about 100 were marked free, or exchanges, reducing the number of then prospective paying subscribers to about 360.

A circular was sent out to these addresses on the 15th of September, 1900, asking the recipients to meet their subscriptions and also inviting non-members to join the Association.

The returns to this circular not being satisfactory, another was sent out on October 20, accompanied by a bill. This brought in funds, not only in way of subscription and dues, but also some special contributions, sufficient to enable us to continue the journal.

From among replies received from supposed paying subscribers to whom bills had been rendered, about sixty-five stated that they had never subscribed, indignation being expressed by some at having received bills. Over 150 more have made no reply, and they probably cannot be counted as *bona fide* subscribers.

During the year about 25 new subscribers have been added, making the present paid subscription list 173, of which 104, being members, received the journal at 50 cents, while 69 pay the full price of \$1.00.

As a result of inquiries in the direction of reducing the cost of publication the place of publication was transferred from Boston to Lancaster, Pa., where the last three issues have been printed at considerable reduction of cost, as is shown in the report.

Much time has been devoted to increasing the membership of the Association, with the result that 91 members have been added during the year, making our present roll 140.

Of the earlier members four have died and two have resigned.

The present financial status of the Swedenborg Scientific Association is as follows:

Cash on hand, .....	\$8.27
Unpaid membership fees for 1899, .....	12.00
Unpaid membership fees for 1900, .....	13.00
Unpaid membership fees for 1901, .....	65.00
Unpaid subscriptions to <i>The New Philosophy</i> , not counting those not yet heard from, .....	51.00
	————— \$149.27
<i>Less Accounts Due—</i>	
30 reams of paper for April issue, .....	30.00
	—————
Net total assets, .....	\$119.27



This amount is, however, only approximate, as the membership fees may not all be collectible, owing to the proviso in minute 160 of the third annual meeting, which enables members to cease paying dues and to withdraw as members without any notice.

This prevents the Treasurer from accurately estimating the resources of the Association, and it is hoped that a resolution will be passed at this meeting making the members responsible for dues until a written resignation has been sent to the Secretary of the Association.

Yours respectfully,

CARL HJ. ASPLUNDH,  
Treasurer.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

May 27th, 1901.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from former Treasurer, .....		\$137 10
Subscriptions to <i>The New Philosophy</i> , .....	\$199 30	
Membership Fees, .....	195 00	
Special Contributions, .....	42 50	
	—————	436 80
		\$573 90

EXPENSES.

1900. <i>The New Philosophy</i> .		
January issue, Printing of, paid to Rev. J. Whitehead, less subscriptions received by him, ..	45 50	
Mail List, paid to Mass. New Church Union, ..	16 00	
April issue, Printing of, 48 pages, paid to Mass. New Church Union, .....	94 82	
Composition Cancelled, .....	14 97	
July issue, Printing of, 48 pages, paid to Mass. New Church Union, .....	112 34	
Electro Heading, .....	50	
October issue, Printing of, paid to <i>The Examiner</i> , Lancaster, Pa., .....	47 53	
Paper from Mass. New Church Union, .....	8 83	
1901.		
January issue, Printing of, paid to <i>The Examiner</i> , Lancaster, Pa., .....	44 13	
Paper and Cover Paper, .....	9 75	
April issue, Printing of, Extra Edition of 2,500 Copies, 56 pages, .....	76 81	
Cover Paper, .....	8 40	
Mailing, .....	2 80	
	—————	\$482 38
Amounts carried forward, .....	\$482 38	\$573 90

Amounts brought forward, .....	\$482 38	\$573 90
GENERAL EXPENSES.		
Copying Minutes of Third Annual Meeting,.....	\$11 16	
Circular setting forth the uses of the Association and Application Blanks, .....	22 31	
Postage, .....	20 81	
Manila Envelopes for mailing <i>The New Philosophy</i> ,.	4 95	
Typewritten Circulars, .....	5 25	
Stationery: Bill—and Letter Heads and Envelopes,.	15 60	
Telegrams, Expressage, .....	1 67	
Account Books, .....	1 50	
		505 63
Balance on hand, .....		\$8 27

CARL HJ. ASPLUNDH,  
*Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct.

JOHN A. WELLS,	}	<i>Auditing Committee.</i>
W. B. CALDWELL,		

#### REPORT OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD.

IN reporting for the Editorial Board on the conduct of *The New Philosophy* the managing editor feels that an apology is due to the editors as well as to the Association. The Association took possession of *The New Philosophy* in the middle of a volume and assumed responsibility for the publication of the entire volume, with no funds in hand, at the beginning of the summer vacation, when collections were almost impossible. After the July number of Volume III, containing the journal of proceedings and some of the papers of the last meeting, the Massachusetts New Church Union refused to continue the work of publishing, after harassing delays; and the October number had to be issued from a new publishing house long after it was due. This arrangement of the order of issue, and the consequent want of time to secure meetings or consultation of the Editorial Board, left the managing editor no alternative but to assume responsibility for the make-up of the magazine. The several editors have furnished material for the Editorial Department; but they have not been consulted as they should have been, and are to be exonerated from any responsibility for lack of judgment in the matter admitted. No praise is too high for the efficiency displayed by the Treasurer of the Association in the very creditable appearance of the magazine; and thanks are due to members of the Association in Huntingdon Valley for assistance in proof-reading and editing, rendered necessary by the great distance of the editors from the office of publication.

The translation of Part 4 of *The Animal Kingdom*, "On the Senses," kindly furnished by Prof. Enoch S. Price, A. M., has not been copy-

righted, but it has been agreed with him that the translation furnished *The New Philosophy* will not be republished by the Association without his consent, in order to secure him against any alteration or use of his work, in his name or otherwise, without his approval.

Respectfully submitted for the Board,

L. P. MERCER,  
*Managing Editor.*

---

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO EDIT THE "PRINCIPIA."

THE Committee to Edit the *Principia* have to report that the revision of the translation of the first volume by the American members of the committee has been completed, and the notes have been sent in MS. to Messrs. Tansley and Rendell, the members of the committee in England, for their review, alterations or approval. This will require yet some time. In the opinion of Professor Mann the second volume will not require so frequent alterations as the first, and as this may consist chiefly of securing a uniformity of terminology where this has been fixed in the first volume, it is thought the revision of the second volume can be made in comparatively short time. Meanwhile the progress of the work is waiting entirely on the labours of the English members of the committee.

FRANK SEWALL,  
ENOCH S. PRICE.

---

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE "LESSER PRINCIPIA."

*Rev. F. Sewall, President:*—

I am not able at this time to make any report other than that the work of translating the *Lesser Principia* is progressing. The transcription of the MS. was delivered to me last Christmas, and up to the present about 35 out of 300 MS. pp. have been translated.

ALFRED ACTON.

---

#### COMMUNICATIONS.

---

##### REPORT OF THE PRINCIPIA CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA.

*To the Swedenborg Scientific Association:*—

DURING the past year the club has had 13 meetings. It continued the program inaugurated last year and mentioned in our last report, viz., the consideration of Swedenborg's scientific and philosophical works.

Mr. Reginald Brown gave an account of the *Lesser Principia*, com-

paring it with the larger work. His review made all desirous of having the work placed before the public at as early a date as possible. Following him Mr. Acton, who had just completed a translation of the *Ontology*, gave the club the benefit of his study by defining the nature of the work, with an explanation of the use of some of Swedenborg's terms.

Professor Vinet then read, at two successive meetings, papers on the *Principles of Chemistry*, taking the position that, although that work contained much that was of value to a student, it yet contained much that has since been proved to be false. His criticisms called forth considerable discussion, which was not confined to the mere consideration of the *Chemistry*, but was extended to the more general subject, viz., the Credibility of Swedenborg's Science. On this subject Mr. Pendleton read a very able and exhaustive paper, and he was followed by another paper by Prof. Vinet on "Invisibles, Element and Fire," as he understood those terms to be used by Swedenborg. Mr. Potts agreed with Prof. Vinet's criticisms, and even went further and attacked Swedenborg's theory of creation, as presented in the *Principia*. His remarks called forth replies from Mr. Dœring and Mr. Synnestvedt, as well as another paper by Mr. Pendleton on the Scientific Works of Swedenborg in their relation to the Writings.

At the last meeting Mr. Stroh, no doubt stimulated by the attacks made on Swedenborg's teachings on the nature of fire, read a very interesting and instructive essay on that subject, dealing with the gradual development of the theory of fire, as it is now commonly accepted, and thus giving what was known of that subject at the time of Swedenborg, together with Swedenborg's position as it is brought out in all of his (scientific) works from his earliest to his latest, showing their substantial agreement, and that Swedenborg discovered much that has since been attributed to modern scientists, many of whose discoveries go to confirm Swedenborg's theory.

While these discussions concerning the credibility of Swedenborg's science were in progress the Chairman of the Club, the Rev. J. F. Potts, recognizing that he stood practically alone in his position in regard to the Scientific Works of Swedenborg, resigned his position as chairman and member of the club, and since then the Vice-Chairman, Rev. O. H. Synnestvedt, has acted as Chairman.

C. E. DÆRING,  
*Sec'y of Principia Club of Philadelphia.*

#### REPORT OF THE SWEDENBORG PHILOSOPHY CLUB.

THE Swedenborg Philosophy Club during the past winter has taken the first steps towards a systematic study of Swedenborg's Scientific Works. *The Economy of the Animal Kingdom* was chosen as the treatise best suited for an introductory study, as it treats chiefly of those broad, fundamental principles which govern, not only in human micro-

cosm, but the world at large. The President of the Club, who is also Director of Study, assigns at each meeting a certain number of pages for home study and thought. The members thus come to the next meeting with some knowledge of the subject in hand, and better prepared to discuss the text, as it is reviewed sentence by sentence. Prof. Mann brings forward explanatory facts and confirmations from the domain of physical and allied sciences, the medical men present elucidative data from modern anatomy and physiology, while others emphasize points which have been of particular interest to them, or ask questions. Progress is not very rapid, not more than one chapter having been covered thus far, but the method adopted has proved itself exceedingly interesting and instructive.

Owing to the press of other duties on the part of the officers, the meetings were reluctantly discontinued in March, but the work will be resumed next fall and pushed forward with renewed vigor.

HARVEY FARRINGTON, M. D.,

*Secretary.*

CHICAGO, ILL., May 20, 1901.

---

#### A CALL AND PLAN FOR THE PUBLISHING OF THE SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC MANUSCRIPTS.

DURING the past year it has become evident that in order to further develop the Science of Swedenborg, it is necessary that the still unpublished manuscripts of Swedenborg, now preserved in Stockholm, be made available, and I therefore venture to suggest that this important work be taken up by the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

According to Dr. R. L. Tafel's *Documents* and others there appear to be about 2,500 pages of these manuscripts which have not yet been reproduced, and their contents are therefore sealed to the world.

While it would be desirable to have all of these manuscripts reproduced at an early date, it may not be possible to meet the expense of the entire work at once; it would be necessary to select the most important and commence with these. This can be decided on by the committee, of which I will speak later. For the purpose of our estimates I have taken the first four codices, amounting to 1,400 pages.

The MSS. are:—

Codex 81, 299 pages, A Treatise on the Magnet.

Codex 84, 363 pages, Different Processes for Separating Silver and Gold.

Codex 86, 164 pages, Mathematical Papers.

Codex 37, 263 pages, which contains definitions of Metallurgy, Mining, Chemistry, Botany, Anatomy, and Ontology, together with extracts from Cicero, Plautus, Florus, and Wolf.

Codex 82, 329 pages, containing a Treatise on Sulphur and Pyrites, concerning the different methods of obtaining the former, with chemical experiments.

Codex 83, 343 pages, containing a Treatise on Common Salt, concerning the different methods of obtaining it.

Codex 85, 446 pages, treating of the methods of extracting and manufacturing Vitriol.

While the reproduction of these manuscripts by the Phototyping process would be most desirable, it seems out of question on account of the expense, and it is generally believed that the careful copying of these manuscripts would answer the present purpose—especially on the line I have thought this matter could be pursued, namely, to have a manuscript copy made by a skilled copyist, well versed in Latin. To verify the work I would suggest that two other persons should compare the copy with the manuscripts, and if doubtful places occur, submit such places to a third person equally well versed in Latin, for consultation.

From an approximate estimate for copying, which I have obtained from Sweden, it appears that this part of the work would cost about 35 cents a page. As one copy, however, would be of little use but to one person, it would be necessary to reproduce this copy by some duplicating process in order to have the works accessible to more than one. On looking over this field I have found that the only satisfactory way to put the work within reach of several would be in the printed form. This would at first seem an expense beyond our reach, especially as Latin is generally more expensive to type-set than English, but I have been fortunate in having found a printer who is fully acquainted with Latin and able to set it up as fast as English.

I have obtained his estimate, and upon careful calculation of all expenses, which I am prepared to submit, I believe that the proposed Codices of Swedenborg's Scientific Manuscripts can be transferred into two octavo volumes, of about 400 pages each, printed in clear legible 10 point type, on good paper and well-bound, in an edition of 500 copies, at a total expense of \$1,600.

As it is one of the first uses of the Swedenborg Scientific Association to preserve and publish the Scientific and Philosophic Works of Swedenborg, I propose that this body undertake this work at an early date. If it should be generally agreed that the Association should do this work, I beg to call attention to the fact that, according to the report of the Committee of Conference With the London Swedenborg Society, published in *The New Philosophy* for July, 1900, page 102, there is an agreement that the Swedenborg Society in London will pay half the cost of publishing the *Principia*, and we have reason to believe that this agreement can be extended to include any other of Swedenborg's scientific works.

If the Swedenborg Society is willing to carry out this agreement, for which we would of course give them one-half of the edition, or 250 copies when completed, it would be for this Association to raise the other half of the entire amount, or \$800.

As the General Convention of the New Jerusalem and the Academy

of the New Church will naturally be interested in this work, I would suggest that each of these bodies be asked to contribute a third of the amount, the remaining third to be paid out of the treasury of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

I further propose that the Association invite individuals to subscribe to this work, and in order to encourage subscriptions each subscriber of at least \$2.00 be entitled to a complete bound set of the proposed work when finished.

If it should not be found feasible to raise the entire amount of money proposed for publishing the two volumes containing the manuscripts, I would suggest that the scheme be not abandoned, but that the Association at once set about procuring a handwritten copy of the manuscripts, and that the printing be undertaken as fast as the funds are forthcoming. In order to secure the means for doing a work of this kind, it is important to make a beginning, and if the Association will undertake this work without delay, the Academy of the New Church has authorized me to state that it is willing to co-operate with its quota, or \$267 (supposing that the Swedenborg Society of London engages in this project to the extent of one-half of the entire expense).

If my plans are accepted by the Association I would suggest that a committee of three be appointed, to include the President, to take entire charge of this work, and to address a communication on the subject to the General Convention at its coming session, and also a communication to the Swedenborg Society, with authority to begin the work if, and as soon as, the conditions warrant.

Yours respectfully,

CARL HJ. ASPLUNDH.

---

#### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1901-1902.

*President*—Rev. Frank Sewall, 1618 Riggs Place, Washington, D. C.

*Secretary*—Rev. Eugene J. E. Schreck, Cor. Cass Ave. and High St., Detroit, Mich.

*Treasurer*—Mr. Carl Hj. Asplundh, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, *ex-officio*. Rev. L. P. Mercer, Steinway Hall, Chicago, Ill.; Prof. Riborg Mann, University of Chicago, Ill.; Rev. C. Th. Odhner, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.; Rev. John Whitehead, Waltham, Mass.;

Dr. Harvey Farrington, 808 Steinway Hall, Chicago, Ill. ; Rev. Alfred Acton, Huntingdon Valley, Pa. ; Rev. Willis L. Gladish, 2123 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Ind. ; Dr. John R. Swanton, Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia ; Rev. Lewis F. Hite, 1 Avon Place, No. Cambridge, Mass.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

Rev. L. P. Mercer, *Managing Editor*; Rev. Frank Sewall, Rev. John Whitehead, Dr. C. Riborg Mann, Dr. H. Farrington, Rev. E. J. E. Schreck.

COMMITTEE ON A NEW EDITION OF THE PRINCIPIA.

Rev. Frank Sewall, *Editor-in-Chief*; Dr. Riborg Mann, Rev. Enoch S. Price, Rev. C. Th. Odhner.

COMMITTEE ON A NEW EDITION OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

Rev. C. E. Dœring, Harvey Farrington, M. D., Mr. Alf. H. Stroh.

COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION OF THE  
LESSER PRINCIPIA.

Rev. Alfred Acton, *Chairman*.

COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSLATION OF THE WORK ON THE  
SENSES.

Rev. Enoch S. Price, *Chairman*.

COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSLATION OF SWEDENBORG'S EARLY  
SWEDISH SCIENTIFIC TREATISES.

Rev. C. Th. Odhner, Rev. Emil Cronlund.

COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLICATION OF SWEDENBORG'S SCIENTIFIC  
MANUSCRIPTS.

Rev. Frank Sewall, Rev. Alfred Acton, Mr. Carl Hj. Asplundh.