

EDITORIAL REMARKS

Swedenborg's *Economy of the Animal Kingdom* was first published in 1740. On the title page under the author's name we read the following: "Late member of the House of Nobles in the Royal Diet of Sweden; Assessor of the Royal Metallic College of Sweden; Fellow of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Uppsala, and of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm; Corresponding Member of the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg." This is a description of a man of the state, of science, and of practical affairs—not that of a philosopher. And yet, even from the full title of the work one can catch a glimpse of what philosophy meant to the author, for this "animal kingdom" (the kingdom of the soul) would be considered "anatomically, physically, and philosophically."

What did he mean by "philosophically" here? This is a question that is addressed both directly and indirectly in the first three contributions in this issue. The Reverend Simons' article includes his reflections on the characteristics of a philosopher as given in no. 19 of *The Economy*.

In the continuing series on New Church epistemology we attempt to apply the ideas found mostly in Swedenborg's theological works to that fundamental realm of philosophic enquiry, epistemology. In this part, the questions addressed concern the nature of knowledge and truth.

Professor Allen's Philosophical Notes focus on the last chapter of Part I of *The Economy* titled "An Introduction to Rational Psychology" wherein that fundamental of Swedenborgian concepts, the doctrine of series and degrees, is enunciated and elaborated upon. For the author, this chapter is of first rank importance in the history of western philosophy because it elaborates for the first time the doctrine that permeates all of Swedenborgian thought—that of degrees.

Notes and Comments includes a timely review by Dr. Gladish of a current best-seller, Allan Bloom's *The Closing of the American Mind*. The work is rich in allusion to aspect of philosophy that have permeated American education and society and it is therefore appropriate that it should be reviewed in this journal. In addition to the review, this department has a letter from Dr. Dole concerning the question of "New Church" translations of the Sacred Scriptures.

We draw attention to the Notice to Authors inside the front cover, particularly to the part concerning the documentation style now in practice in the journal. We strongly urge authors to follow the guide given, for attention to it will save much editorial work and expedite the publication of the journal.