EDITORIAL REMARKS

In This Issue

This issue of *The New Philosophy* is built around three perspectives on the philosophy of science. In "Investigations Into Kant's *Dreams of a Spirit Seer*," the scholarly Reverend Kurt Nemitz gives us a deep dive into dynamics of Immanuel Kant's professional take-down of his rival Emanuel Swedenborg, over the place of otherworldly experience in doing philosophy. This feud has long been a curiosity of the lives of both philosophers, and Nemitz adds some welcome factual light to the myth.

The essay by Karl Birjukov ranges high and low in its exploration of modern concepts of force, inertia and coming-into-being. According to Birjukov, our paradigm of mechanics is inspired, across degrees of separation, by an unlikely source in Emanuel Swedenborg. Birjukov's knowledge of the subject is encyclopedic, but his writing is concise and clear, as he comments on the influence that science has had on our post-Enlightenment (or "Endarkenment" as he sees it) world. He is hopeful a new scientific era is about to begin. Here is how he ends the essay:

> There is no doubt that the world has changed entirely with the influence of science, but depending on one's point of view, that alteration is what Spengler called 'devastatingly trivial.' This triviality has little to do with the material gains that science has brought, but rather that it is brought at a high cost philosophically and spiritually.

Or it may be that it is a storm in the process of blowing itself out. In any event, the more integrated view represented by Swedenborg may still emerge. Perhaps, therefore, one should see the present shape of things in the same terms as suggested by Whitehead with regard to Plato. In terms of a more recent time, one could consider that the modern era, and the philosophies that inform it, are footnotes to Swedenborg.

Lastly there is a statement of the spiritual basis of Swedenborg's ostensibly scientific treatment of physics in his *Principia* of 1734. In a clear indication of the theistic nature of his research, the audacious young scientist pauses in Chapter I Part I to set the stage for a scientific method that depends on the "perfect veneration of the Deity" as an essential starting point, to ensure that our science is not "lost

in obscurity." Would that New Church science professors today could exhibit the same audacity in their work.

I think you will enjoy these selected essays. Future issues are in preparation that will feature a range of topics from Evolution to the Luminiferous Ether. Stay tuned.

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