

The New Philosophy.

A Journal devoted to the exposition of the philosophy presented in the scientific, philosophical and theological works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

Vol. 1.

URBANA, OHIO, JULY, 1898.

No. 5.

The Use of Swedenborg's Science and Philosophy.

WE give most of our space in this number to the proceedings of the meeting to organize "The Swedenborg Scientific Association." The organization of this body will be a great benefit to the organized New Church, if it succeeds in stimulating a love for and a knowledge of the science and philosophy contained in the scientific and philosophical works of Swedenborg. This organization also promises to perform a great use by making these works accessible to scientists and others, and by imparting to them a knowledge of their importance and value in solving many of the most important problems of the day.

Nature is the product of God in which are ultimate His nature and quality. The very forms, laws, and operations, the substances and organisms of nature, not only embody and show forth the laws of order in nature, but they also are correspondences of the wisdom and love of God Himself. Hence, we may see that a true knowledge of the facts embodied in nature is the foundation on which all higher wisdom rests. The understanding of the causes which enter into and govern these facts makes rational science and philosophy. This, again, is the foundation on which a true theology must rest. God, as the origin and sustainer of all things, bears an indissoluble and intimate relationship with each and everything of His creation, by which He continually preserves it in its order, form and use. Carefully observed facts, rationally and systematically arranged, by which causes are deduced, indeed make a foundation and basis for higher principles, and, in doing this kind of work, Swedenborg manifested a remarkable genius, never excelled, and rarely, if ever, equalled. Nevertheless, it is impossible to produce a complete and true philosophy based solely on facts and human reasoning thereon. The science of today manifests this in its attempts to solve many of the problems dealing with the origin of life, of force, and of nature. Swedenborg, in his scientific works, whilst acknowledging the Divine Being and Power in everything, by reasoning alone was unable to evolve some principles necessary to complete and perfect his philosophical system. Wonderful as was his genius in the perception of interior causes

in nature, by natural genius alone he could not ascend to the perception of the origin of life and of force itself. A new element in his philosophy was still needed, which, when supplied, modifies, qualifies and perfects all his previous productions; and this element is nothing less than the Divine Revelation of the Spiritual World and of the Divine Being Himself, together with their connection and relation to human souls and lives, and to nature itself. Without the knowledge thus obtained by revelation, he says that "no one can obtain for himself a just idea concerning the creation of the universe," "for, without them the human mind, from mere ignorance concerning them, may easily fall into the idea of the creation of the universe by nature, and say, only from the authority of the church, that nature was created by God; but, because it knows not how, if it inquires into it more interiorly, it falls headlong into naturalism, which denies God," T. C. R. 75.

The science of the present day is beset with this danger of falling into naturalism, because it investigates the origin of life, of force, and of the forms in nature merely from the side of nature. The old theology does not possess the knowledge necessary to elevate the mind to see interior spiritual and divine causes. In fact, there is no source whence this knowledge may be derived, except in the theological writings given to the world through Swedenborg. Whilst these writings are theological, they are philosophical and scientific, in that they give the interior view of the causes of all natural forces and phenomena.

It is well that the Swedenborg Scientific Association, whilst applying itself to the publication of Swedenborg's scientific works, also includes in its purpose the study of the theological works in their bearing on the discussion of questions of science and philosophy. The principles contained therein will be found to embrace the very soul and life of all questions that enter deeply in philosophical and scientific investigation, and this Association, by following the course it has mapped out, will develop principles which will eventually revolutionize the ideas of the world on these important subjects.

The Use to be Accomplished by a Swedenborg Scientific Association.

An address by Rev. Frank Sewall, delivered at the meeting to form the Swedenborg Scientific Association, held in New York, May 27th, 1898.

IT IS an acknowledged principle in science that an organism is grounded in use, and therefore the true form of any organization must be that which will serve most perfectly for the carrying on of its use. It becomes us, in coming together with a view to forming an associated body, to arrive at :

I. A clear idea of the use to be performed.

II. An agreement as to the best methods of performing this use.

As to the use itself, I may, without too much exaggeration, say that it is to take up the work laid down nearly a century and a half ago by the illustrious author in whose name we are assembled.

That the stupendous achievements of Swedenborg in the fields of science and philosophy from the time they were first published, even until now, have been practically lost to the sight of the scientific world, it would be useless to deny. Even the Church has ignored them, practically at least, by open neglect, if not discouragement, of their study. For their only introduction to the knowledge of the modern world we are indebted mainly to those outside the professed New Church body, namely : to a learned clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. Augustus Clissold, the translator into English of the *Principia* and of the *Animal Kingdom*, and to the American transcendentalist, Emerson, whose eloquent raptures over the magnificence and sublimity of Swedenborg's work as a philosopher the New Church has been pleased to quote to the world, without ever, as a body, having acquired any adequate idea of what it was that the famous essayist was thus praising, permitting even the editions of the London Association of 1845 to go out of print, and being indebted to scholars and experts not of our body for whatever public appreciation or bringing to notice of Swedenborg's deserts the world has witnessed in recent years. (Witness the edition of the *Ontologia*, translated from the photolithograph MS. by Prof. Cabell, of Urbana University, and published at the expense of the Rev. William R. Alger, of Boston ; the researches, recently published, of German and other European scholars, into the merits of Swedenborg's Cosmogony, as also of his psychology and philosophy in general. See article by the astronomer Nyrén, of Pultowa, Russia, on Swedenborg and the Nebular Hypothesis, in the *Vierteljahrsschrift*

der Astronomischen Gesellschaft, Leipzig, 1897, p. 81 ; articles on *Swedenborg* and *Kant*, by Prof. Vaihinger of the University of Halle, in the *Kantstudien*, vol. I and II ; the article by Max Heinze, Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Saxony, on *Kant's Vorlesungen über Metaphysic*, showing the impress of Swedenborg upon Kant's mind and teaching, notwithstanding all the assumed persiflage of the "Dreams of a Visionary," etc., in *Abhandlungen der Sächsischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften*, Philologisch-historische Klasse 14, pp. 556 ff., Leipzig, 1894. etc.) While we must not overlook the notable exceptions to this general neglect of Swedenborg's scientific works in those productions of avowed New Churchmen, the magnificent translations of Dr. Wilkinson and Dr. Strutt, of England, of the fragments of the philosophical and anatomical series, (*Generative Organs*, *Posthumous Tracts*, *Outlines of the Infinite*, by James John Garth Wilkinson, Member Royal College of Surgeons of London ; *Principles of Chemistry*, *Miscellaneous Observations*, by Charles Edward Strutt, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh) in the colossal work undertaken by the late Rev. Dr. Rudolph Tafel, in translating, editing and publishing the work *On the Brain*, also in the translation and publication in America of the work *De Anima*, ("On the Soul, or Rational Psychology,") translated from Latin and edited, with introduction and notes, by Frank Sewall, New York, 1886 ; still it must be allowed that these works, like others, received but little attention from the New Church as a body, that, with the exception of the work on the Brain, they have been allowed to go out of print and to become inaccessible to the ordinary student, while the work on the Brain is left with only two of the projected four volumes ever brought to completion.

The reasons for this neglect and lack of appreciation in the past it is not necessary here to go into, except so far as they throw light on the duty of the present. In brief, it may be said that the interest in the theological writings had the rightful precedence, not only in meeting the more immediate need of the world, but also as really introductory to a true and worthy interest in the scientific and philosophical writings, and that whatever has been the appreciation shown by scientists and scholars as such, who have not at the same time

been receivers of Swedenborg's theological teachings, this cannot equal in depth and value that which will be felt by those who shall see and rightly estimate the two systems in their mutual significance, and behold them in their synthetic completeness as constituting a single and perfect system. On the other hand, while the early receivers of the theological doctrines showed but little appreciation of the scientific works, for the sufficient reason that they knew almost nothing about them, and were not, as a general thing, men of scientific acquirements such as to render them capable of understanding them if they had known them, it must be said that in this regard New Churchmen are not very different from the rest of the world at the time, even that which called itself scientific.

Notwithstanding Swedenborg's favorable and flattering recognition by the learned bodies of his time, the royal favor which he enjoyed in courts, and in his scientific and political relations, the princely patronage under which his great scientific works were published, (viz: by the Duke Rudolph of Brunswick) and his election to membership of the Chief Academies of Science in Europe, to the Royal Society of London, August, 1742 (invited by Sir Hans Sloan), to the Imperial Academy of Russia, December, 1734; to the Academy of Science in Stockholm, January, 1741, his nomination to membership in the last being made by the celebrated naturalist, Linnæus; and the inclusion of a part of his mineralogical works in the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Science of France,* nevertheless, it must be admitted that there existed at that time very few minds capable of grasping such a system as that of Swedenborg, and a very meager supply of scientific data and information necessary for any just appreciation of the real significance of his theories. Nor was Swedenborg an exception in this respect of inadequate appreciation. The history of modern science shows that the earlier discoverers and speculators in the field of physics failed for years to awaken any public in-

**Art des Forges et Fourneaux à Fer. Par M. le Marquis de Courtillemon; et par M. Bonchu Correspondant de l'Académie Royale des Sciences quatrième section. Traité du Fer, par M. Swedenborg; traduit du Latin par M. Bonchu, MDCCLXII.* This work is published in Imperial folio, and covers 197 pages, and is embellished with fine illustrations. The introduction begins as follows: "The translation of the work of M. Swedenborg, which supplies the fourth part of the 'Art of Forging,' is given in order to furnish a comparison of the works carried on in Sweden with those of France. This foreign Savant, who has written several works on Metallurgy, has been employed by the Swedish government in connection with the iron and copper industries of that kingdom for the sake of the enlightenment which the government may derive from one so fully acquainted with the subject."

terest, not to speak of enthusiasm, in their discoveries. (See articles in Harper's Magazine, 1897, on *The Century's Progress in Physics*, etc., by Henry Smith Williams, M. D.) If Swedenborg's doctrine of the evolution of the universe from a solar vortex, anticipating all that is true in the system generally attributed to Kant, failed of recognition at the time, it was probably for the same reason that that of Kant himself was treated with almost similar neglect. Probably the general capacity of the learned world at that time to appreciate Swedenborg's real contributions to the world's learning was aptly enough expressed in the words of M. Matter, Honorary Counsellor of the University of Paris, in his *Vie de Swedenborg*: "The immense essay, which fills the first volume of the *Opera Philosophica et Mineralia* (viz: the *Principia*) excited only a sort of stupid wonder, but the practical utility of the other two volumes was at once recognized by the learned."

If we are warranted in believing that the world is ready at this time to give the science and philosophy of Swedenborg a worthier hearing, it will be because the scientific progress of the last century has furnished the data and experience which both call for, and will corroborate the principles laid down by him and generally regarded at the time as purely hypothetical. It will be because the world has awakened from the "stupid wonder" with which it first heard the theories of Swedenborg concerning the ethers, the magnetic vortex, the evolution of motions, of forms, and of atmospheres, the discrete degrees of being, their relation by correspondence, the nature of light and of vision, functions of actives and passives, the absence of a void, the contiguity of all things, and the influx of life from within by series of substances in vibratory motion, etc., and because in the vast wealth of material furnished by modern experiment, all these great doctrines will now find means of demonstration that in Swedenborg's day were not available, and for the further and more important reason that the scientific and philosophic scholar of today is demanding an explanation of these phenomena which he finds in no hypothesis yet offered outside of those of Swedenborg.

It is therefore with no affectation of superiority over our predecessors in the past, whether in the Church or in scientific circles, that we may regard ourselves as called upon to undertake the work laid down by Swedenborg in 1745, and only temporarily and ineffectually resumed, although in a noble spirit and energy, by the London Swedenborg Association, in 1845. The time has come for the further translation and the republication of the scientific works of Swedenborg, because the science of today is in an attitude more favorable to their

proper appreciation and use than ever before, and because the Church itself is becoming aware, however slowly, of the fact that the new Christianity must rest on a new science of the new truths of the ultimate plane of knowledge, and that, so the Lord, in his second coming, will make the "Place of His feet glorious."

In particular, the use before us would seem to divide itself into the following duties :

I. The republishing of those works already translated but now out of print.

II. The translation and publication of works hitherto unpublished.

III. The preservation in photolithograph copies of the work now existing only in manuscript.*

To this work of publication there must be adjoined the duty of the study of the principles laid down in these works, and their widest possible diffusion in the scientific world by means of comparative examination and published criticisms of the science commonly in vogue. The time has come for an aggressive and not a mere apologetic and defensive attitude in those possessed of these scientific and philosophical doctrines. These cannot accomplish their end in silence or isolation. They must be proclaimed, and brought into the most direct and familiar contact with the science of today in all its phases. This can be done :

I. By the study of the works by qualified specialists.

II. By the publication of treatises in a suitable periodical, or formal transactions.

III. By articles, critical or otherwise, inserted in the current scientific and philosophic journals.

IV. And lastly, by a well-equipped and endowed Academy of Science and Philosophy.

It will be seen that the work naturally assumes two aspects, namely : that addressed to those already disciples, and that addressed to those who are not yet convinced. It will, for this reason, be liable to two extremes in the manner of treating Swedenborg's theories, namely : the dogmatic, which will accept these principles as having an authority from a source beyond that of pure reason and experience ; the other, a strictly empirical manner, regarding that as valid only so far as proved by physical demonstration. There will be no harm in this variety of the treatment. On the other hand, there will be great harm in restricting the present investigation and experiment, and in any attempt to compel the acceptance of Swedenborg's teachings in a dogmatic way. It was against this very constraint of dogma not grounded in rea-

son that Swedenborg joined with Kant in the great struggle for the liberty of science in the first half of the last century. While it will be impossible for anyone who has seen a system of truth in its unity and has felt the satisfaction of a complete rational consent, to regard such a system as entitled only to the shifting approval or disapproval of the empiricist and the critic, still the spirit of dogmatism will be entirely out of place in an organization that seeks to attract rather than repel the fellowship of honest and sincere seekers after scientific knowledge and philosophic intelligence.

As regards the organization itself, the question will arise, perhaps, as to the feasibility of making it international in scope, in which case the legal conditions necessary to incorporation or holding of property, etc., will have to be considered.

There will also present itself the interesting subject of the classification of the works of Swedenborg into the several departments of science and philosophy, such as Chemistry, Physics, Physiology and Anatomy, Psychology, Astronomy, Botany, Biology and Evolution, Philology, Sociology, Economics, Politics, History, Ethics and Æsthetics, with possibly the creation of sections devoted to the study of each, and its practical application to the wants of the present time.

Finally, the practical features of the organization will include the providing :

A. The ways and means of supporting the work.

B. The publication of the works, whether in complete volumes or in the form of serials, the publication of collateral studies and elucidations, the appointment of competent editors, and providing for correspondence and interchange with other scientific bodies.

With so high and delightful a mission before us, it will be impossible for us to enter upon its several duties without a devout sense of gratitude to the Merciful Providence of the Lord that has enabled us to conceive and inaugurate this enterprise, and without the desire to implore upon its beginning and progress the Divine favor and benediction. Therefore, let us look to Him "of whose glory all the earth is full."

An important announcement is made on another page, calling for subscriptions to the works, *De Anima* (The Soul, or Rational Psychology) and *The Economy of the Animal Kingdom* of Swedenborg. The plates of these two important works are in existence and a new edition can readily be made. We hope that a generous response will be made to this offer. In our next number we hope to give a notice of the nature of one or both of these works.

* See article by J. R. Swanton, in THE NEW PHILOSOPHY, Vol. 1, No. 1, "The Distinctness and Necessity of Swedenborg's Scientific System."

Transactions of a Meeting Held to Organize the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

[Held in the City of New York, Friday, May 27th, and Saturday, May 28th, 1898.]

FIRST SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 11 A. M.

1. Agreeably to a call issued by the Rev. Frank Sewall, of Washington, a meeting was held on May 27th, 1898, in the City of New York, and at the rooms of The American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, Bancroft building, No. 3 West Twenty-ninth street, for the purpose of organizing a "Swedenborg Scientific Association" for the further translation, publication, distribution and study of the scientific and philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

2. The following persons were present at this meeting :

Boston, Mass.,	Rev. Samuel M. Warren.
Brooklyn, N. Y.,	Rev. J. C. Ager.
	Dr. L. C. Ager, M. D.
	Rev. Andrew Czerny, M. A.
	Mrs. A. M. Miller.
	Miss M. K. Walker.
Chicago, Ill.,	Rev. L. P. Mercer.
Detroit, Mich.,	Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, M. A.
Erie, Pa.,	Mr. Arthur Cranch.
Huntington Valley, Pa.,	Mr. C. H. Asplundh.
	Mr. S. H. Hicks.
	Prof. C. Th. Odhner, M. A.
	Mr. John Pitcairn.
	Rev. J. F. Potts, A. B.
	Rev. G. G. Starkey, A. B.
	Mr. Alfred Stroh.
	Rev. H. Synnestvedt, A. B.
Newark, N. J.,	Mr. A. J. Auchterlonie.
New York City,	Mr. E. C. Brown.
	Mrs. George Chase.
	Mr. George W. Colton.
	Mr. W. E. Curtis.
	Mr. J. R. Hunter.
	Mr. George V. Nash.
	Mr. C. C. Parsons.
	Mrs. T. G. Robinson.
	Rev. S. S. Seward.
	Dr. J. W. Thomson, M. D.
Orange, N. J.,	Rev. C. H. Mann.
Philadelphia, Pa.,	Prof. Alfred Acton, A. B.
	Dr. F. A. Boericke, M. D.
	Dr. Harvey Farrington, M. D., A. B.
	Mr. Ernest Farrington.
St. Petersburg, Russia,	Madame Anna Povolni.
Vineland, N. J.,	Rev. Adolph Roeder.

Washington, D. C., Rev. Frank Sewall, M. A.
Yonkers, N. Y., Mr. Walter C. Childs.

Total number present, 36.

3. The meeting opened at 11 A. M. Prof. Odhner was chosen temporary secretary, and Rev. Frank Sewall, temporary chairman.

4. The chairman called the meeting to order, and then delivered the inaugural address.

The address was followed by a brief prayer for the Divine guidance and blessing, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, in which all joined. (See p. 34.)

5. The chairman appointed the Rev. C. H. Mann and Mr. Alfred Stroh a committee to ascertain the names of the persons present at the meeting.

6. The secretary read communications from the following gentlemen, all expressing interest and sympathy with the objects of the present meeting : Mr. L. P. Ford, of Shortlands, Kent, England ; Rev. W. H. Acton, Colchester, England ; Rev. J. E. Bowers, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada ; Dr. E. R. Ellis, of Detroit, Michigan ; Prof. Thomas French, of Cincinnati, Ohio ; Mr. Riborg Mann, of Chicago, Illinois ; Mr. E. Nicholson, of Lakewood, Ohio ; Mr. William Niles, of La Porte, Indiana ; Mr. E. F. Robinson, of Toronto, Canada ; Mr. John R. Swanton, of Roxbury, Massachusetts ; Mr. Percy Werner, Secretary of the Swedenborg Club, St. Louis, Missouri ; Rev. John Whitehead, Urbana, Ohio ; Rev. J. E. Warren, Boston, Massachusetts.

The secretary also read a communication on "Swedenborg's Scientific Works" signed "E. M." of Maidstone, Kent, England, and published in the *Morning Light*, of London.

7. The Rev. L. P. Mercer reported a most encouraging interest evinced by persons in Chicago in the recent scientific revival. At a meeting lately held in that city, it became apparent that the proposed Scientific Association could count upon the active cooperation of from forty to fifty persons, including six or seven experts who are especially fitted by scientific training.

8. The committee on the roll having presented their report, Mr. C. C. Parsons offered the following resolution : "Resolved, That an organization be now effected to carry out the purposes of this meeting." The resolution was unanimously adopted.

9. The Rev. L. P. Mercer moved that a com-

mittee of three be appointed to consider the form of organization for this association, said committee to report at the afternoon session of the present day. The motion was unanimously carried, and the chairman, together with Rev. S. M. Warren, Dr. F. A. Boericke and Rev. L. P. Mercer, were constituted a committee on organization.

10. The chairman appointed a committee on program, consisting of the temporary secretary, together with Dr. L. C. Ager and Mr. George V. Nash.

11. The meeting took a recess until 1:30 P. M.

SECOND SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 1:30 P. M.

12. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

13. The committee on program presented their report.

14. The Rev. S. M. Warren distributed a number of copies of a leaflet published by Mr. John R. Swanton, and containing a transcription of Swedenborg's MSS. outline of *Philosophia Corpuscularis*.

15. Rev. L. P. Mercer read a paper by Mr. Riborg Mann, Assistant in Physics in the University of Chicago, on "The Value of Swedenborg's Chemistry," written expressly for the meeting.

16. Dr. Boericke presented the report of the committee on organization.

17. The meeting unanimously adopted the following as the first article of the constitution of the Association :

"ARTICLE I—NAME.

This organization shall be called the Swedenborg Scientific Association."

18. The article expressing the "Objects of the Association" was discussed at length by Messrs. Potts, Auchterlonie, Mercer, Warren, Odhner, Thomson, Acton, Boericke, J. C. Ager, Schreck, Hunter, Sewall, Parsons, Starkey and Synnestvedt, and the following was finally adopted as the second article of the constitution :

"ARTICLE II—OBJECTS.

The objects of this Association shall be : 1. To preserve, translate, publish and distribute the Scientific and Philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg ; and 2. To promote the principles taught in those works, having in view, likewise, their relation to the Science and Philosophy of the present day."

19. The following was adopted as the third article of the constitution :

"ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person desiring to cooperate in promoting the objects of this Association may become a mem-

ber by written application to the secretary and by the payment of an annual fee of two dollars."

20. The following were adopted as the fourth and fifth articles of the constitution :

"ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS.

The officers of this body shall be a president, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer, and a board of directors consisting of these officers and eight additional members, all to be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the body. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to devise ways and means to carry out the objects of the association, both by the procuring of the necessary funds and by the proper classification and organization of the work to be done."

"ARTICLE V—MEETINGS.

This Association shall meet annually, at such time and place as the board of directors shall determine. The board of directors shall have power to call special meetings as may be required."

21. The following was adopted as the sixth and last article of the constitution :

"ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS.

Any article of the constitution of this association may be changed on the recommendation of the board of directors at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present."

22. A motion to appoint a committee on nominations was lost, and it was resolved that all nominations for officers or members of the board of directors be made in open meeting.

23. The Rev. L. P. Mercer, in nominating Rev. Frank Sewall for the office of president, emphasized the desirability of nominating, as far as possible, professional scientists and laymen as officers of the association.

24. Mr. Odhner, in seconding the nomination of Mr. Sewall for the presidency, dwelt on the undesirability of making any distinction whatever between laymen and clergymen as members of this association.

25. The Rev. Frank Sewall spoke of the importance of having a scientifically qualified layman at the head of the body, and expressed an earnest desire that such might be the choice of the association.

26. The meeting took a recess until 8 P. M.

THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, MAY 27TH, 8 P. M.

27. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

28. The chairman appointed tellers for the election of officers and members of the board of directors.

29. The Association proceeded to the election of officers :

The Rev. Frank Sewall was elected president.
Mr. John R. Swanton, recording secretary.
Mr. Riborg Mann, corresponding secretary.
Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, treasurer.

30. The following gentlemen were elected additional members of the board of directors :

Dr. F. A. Boericke, of Philadelphia.
Rev. John Whitehead, of Urbana, Ohio.
Dr. J. B. S. King, of Chicago.
Dr. Edward Cranch, of Erie, Pa.
Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, of Detroit, Mich.
Rev. L. F. Hite, of Boston.
Dr. L. C. Ager, of Brooklyn.
Dr. Harvey Farrington, of Philadelphia.

31. It was resolved that the board of directors shall have power to fill any vacancies occurring in their number during the present year.

32. The question of publishing a journal containing the proceedings of this meeting was referred to the board of directors, together with the temporary secretary.

33. The meeting adjourned until Saturday, May 28th, at 9 A. M.

FOURTH SESSION.

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH, 9 A. M.

34. The meeting was called to order by the chairman.

35. A paper by Prof. Odhner, on "The Study of Swedenborg's Science, an Historical Sketch," was read by the author, and was briefly discussed by Messrs. Starkey, Potts, Odhner, Czerny and Acton.

36. The Secretary read extracts from a lengthy paper by Rev. Samuel Beswick, on "Swedenborg as a Scientist." The paper was referred to the board of directors for further consideration.

37. Rev. George G. Starkey read a paper by Mr. John R. Swanton, on "Methods of Study in the New Dispensation."

38. The following by-laws for the association were presented by Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, and were unanimously adopted :

"1. Five members of the board of directors and a majority of the members of any committee of this association shall constitute a quorum thereof respectively.

"2. The board of directors and all committees of this association may act either at a meeting at which a quorum is present, or without meeting, by correspondence between the members, but in the latter case no decision shall be arrived at without the acquiescence of a majority of the members of the board of directors or committee, as the case

may be, communicated in writing to the chairman of such board or committee.

"3. The annual dues of each member shall become payable on the first day of the month following his reception as a member, and annually thereafter.

"4. These by-laws or any of them may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the association, or a two thirds vote of the board of directors."

39. The Rev. Adolph Roeder offered the following resolution, which was adopted: "Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the president of this association, to which may be referred questions arising from scientific statements made by Swedenborg in his theological writings."

40. The Rev. Alfred Acton offered the following resolution, which was adopted: "Resolved, That the president of this association be empowered to draw up a memorial to the General Convention of the New Jerusalem, setting forth the information of this association and the uses it has adopted, and offering its services in any work having relation to said uses."

41. The association adopted a vote of thanks to the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, and to its general manager for the use of the rooms of the society for this meeting, and for numerous courtesies extended.

42. The president appointed the following committee on the scientific statements of Swedenborg in the theological works: Rev. Adolph Roeder, Rev. J. F. Potts, Rev. T. F. Wright, Prof. C. Th. Odhner, Dr. Edward Cranch, Dr. Kent and Dr. J. B. S. King.

43. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P. M., subject to the call of the president and the board of directors.

FRANK SEWALL,
President of the Swedenborg Scientific Association.
C. TH. ODHNER, Temporary Secretary.

The General Convention of the New Church, at its recent meeting in Cleveland, heartily responded to the offer of the Swedenborg Scientific Association to co-operate with it in the publication of the Principia. The Convention unanimously voted to turn over the whole of this work to the newly formed association, recognizing the fact that this work belonged more properly to a scientific organization than to one formed distinctly for religious purposes. The work of securing subscriptions and proceeding with the publication will now be taken up by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, and subscriptions may be made directly to them. We understand that subscriptions for over two hundred copies have already been received. No price has yet been fixed for the work.

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY.

REV. JOHN WHITEHEAD, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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NOTES.

The committee on *The Principia*, which issued a circular some months ago, has received a large number of replies from public libraries, and men of science. These replies show a marked interest in the proposed republication of the work. The replies show that some of our most prominent scientists are already acquainted with the work and regard its publication as of great use. The replies encourage the committee to expect that the work, when published, will be carefully perused by the men whose position commands the attention and confidence of the scientific world of today.

A gentleman in London, England, has offered to the Swedenborg Scientific Association to pay the cost of translating Swedenborg's work on copper and for the plates necessary to illustrate it. This offer has been accepted and its publication will be made when the necessary means is furnished.

The article on the Vermiform Appendix, published in our June number, has called out a number of warm commendations. We expect to follow it with a number of physiological articles by the same author.

The request, in our first number, for information bearing on the subject of spontaneous generation, has brought a number of replies giving personal observations and references to books that mention the subject. We hope our readers will continue to favor us in this way, as the subject is receiving due study, and all the information bearing on the question will be useful and valuable.

We continue to receive warm commendations and words of encouragement in the publication of *THE NEW PHILOSOPHY* from both sides of the Atlantic. A number of friends have responded to our offer of reduced rates for copies for free distribution to public libraries and to persons out of the Church. This is a means of performing a mission-

ary use in a new direction: It will be a means of bringing the rational nature of Swedenborg's philosophy more fully before the public, and will aid in dispelling the mischievous notion so widely prevalent that Swedenborg was a visionary, whose writings are not worthy of examination. We renew our invitation to our readers and friends to send us their subscriptions to the paper, or to make contributions toward its support. Each contribution will aid us to circulate it more widely.

“There was therefore a time like no time, when the sun being in a state of pregnancy, carried in his womb the bodies of his own universe, and when, being delivered, he emitted them into the regions of air; for if they were derived from the sun, as a parent, it is manifest that they must have burst forth from his fruitful womb. Nevertheless, it was impossible that he could carry in his burning focus, and afterwards bring forth, such heavy and inert productions, and therefore such burdens must have been the ultimate effects of his exhalation, and of the powers thence flowing and efficient. Hence it follows, that the sun primitively was overspread with effluvia excited and hatched by his real irradiation, and flowing together in abundance and in every direction to him, as an asylum and only harbor of rest; and that from those fluids, in process of time condensed, there existed a surrounding nebulous expanse, or a mass like the white of an egg, which, with the sun included in it, would resemble the GREAT EGG OF THE UNIVERSE; also that the surface of this egg could at length derive a crust, or a kind of shell, in consequence of the rays being intercepted, and their influences shut up, which crust, the sun, when the time of parturition was at hand, by his inward heat and agitation would burst, and would thereby hatch a numerous offspring, equal in number to the globes visible in his universe, which still look up to him as a parent. Something similar to this process appears to take place both in the great and smaller subjects within the sphere of his world and of its three kingdoms on the earth, whether they be produced from the womb, from seed, or from an egg, for all such products are only types effigied according to the idea of the greatest, and in themselves, although in a small effigy, they resemble and emulate a kind of universe. These now became orbs, * * * * and being conveyed and put in rotation by the circumambient ether, at first they began to creep and make progress round the sun, * * and by quick and short circuits to make a commencement of years, and a rotation of days, and thus to enter upon their periods.”—*Worship and Love of God*, by Swedenborg, published 1745.