



# THE NEW PHILOSOPHY

A Quarterly Magazine devoted to the exposition of the philosophy  
 presented in the scientific, philosophical, and theological  
 Works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

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Bulletin of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, No. 2.

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# THE NEW PHILOSOPHY.

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THE NEW PHILOSOPHY is a quarterly magazine, devoted to the exposition of the scientific and philosophical principles contained in the Works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

It is our purpose to bring out the nature of Swedenborg's teachings as contained in his scientific and philosophical works, and to supplement and illustrate this by the principles contained in his theological works, believing that in the latter are contained principles of truth which are of vast importance in the development of science and philosophy; especially in the questions of deeper import, such as those relating to the origin of matter, form, and life.

THE NEW PHILOSOPHY will also consider questions relating to the advancement of science in the light of the principles contained in these works, and review such books and papers as confirm them. We shall also point out current ideas and teachings which differ from the teachings of Swedenborg.

It will be our endeavor to treat all questions in a rational manner, and to open our columns, so far as possible, to the varying views which may be taken on any question.

Believing that true science is the foundation and support of all true theology, we deem it of great importance to open up and develop this ultimate plane, and to show its essential harmony with the teachings of the Heavenly Doctrines of the New Church. We therefore invite the cooperation of all persons interested, that by their aid we may make the magazine an able exponent of these principles.

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**REV. JOHN WHITEHEAD, Editor and Publisher.**

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# THE NEW PHILOSOPHY.

VOL. III.

APRIL, 1900.

No. 2.

## SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.

### PROGRAM OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

To be held in New York, Thursday and Friday, April 13 and 14, 1899, in the rooms of the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, No. 3 West Twenty-ninth Street.

Thursday, 10 A. M. Meeting of the Board of Directors.

10.30. Meeting of the Association, calling of roll, reading of minutes, and reports as follows:—

Reports of the Secretaries.

Report of the Treasurer.

Report of the Board of Directors, Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, Secretary.

Report of the Committee to Edit the *Principia*, the Rev. Frank Sewall, Chairman.

Report of Committee to Edit the "Economy of the Animal Kingdom," Dr. Edward Cranch, Chairman.

Report of Committee to Transcribe, Translate, and Edit the "*Lesser Principia*," Mr. John R. Swanton, Chairman.

Report of the Editor of the new edition of "The Soul: or Rational Psychology."

Report of Committee on "Scientific Statements in the Theological Writings of Swedenborg," the Rev. Adolph Roeder, Chairman.

Report of Committee on Ways and Means, Dr. F. A. Boericke, Chairman.

12 M. The President's Annual Address.

Communications from the Auxiliary Societies : —

The Principia Club of Philadelphia.

The New-Philosophy Club of Chicago.

2 P. M. Consideration of Reports and New Business.

At convenient times during the meeting the following papers will be read and discussed.

"The Law of Evolution," the Rev. W. F. Pendleton, of Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

"The Importance of Swedenborg's Doctrine to Physiology and Psychology," the Rev. L. P. Mercer, of Chicago.

"Wherein do the Nebular Hypotheses of Kant, Laplace, and Swedenborg Differ?" Dr. Riborg Mann, of the University of Chicago.

"Swedenborg's Earlier Scientific Treatises in Swedish," Prof. C. Th. Odhner, of Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

7 P. M. The Annual Dinner of the Association, to be followed by brief addresses. Tickets, at \$1.00 each, may be had during the day of Dr. Riborg Mann, of the Committee.

Friday, 10 A. M. Election of Officers, action on Reports, and other business.

Reports and communications and volunteer papers are to be sent in by April 10 to Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, 132 Nassau Street, New York, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

By order of the Board of Directors.

EDMOND CONGAR BROWN, *Secretary.*

## SECOND ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Second Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, held at the rooms of the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society, Bancroft Building, No. 3 West Twenty-ninth Street, New York City, Thursday, April 13, and Friday, April 14, 1899, the President, the Rev. Frank Sewall, of Washington, D. C., in the Chair.

### FIRST SESSION.

THURSDAY, April 13, 10.30 A. M.

45. The meeting was called to order by the President.
46. The following persons as members and visitors were present at this meeting.

Rev. Frank Sewall, President, Washington, D. C.

Mr. John R. Swanton, Recording Secretary, New York, N. Y.

Dr. C. Riborg Mann, Corresponding Secretary, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, Treasurer, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. Harry C. Ager, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Rev. J. C. Ager, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mrs. J. C. Ager, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dr. L. C. Ager, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. G. Woolworth Colton, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mrs. C. R. Mann, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. L. P. Mercer, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. N. D. Pendleton, Chicago, Ill.

Mr. Paul Synnestvedt, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, Detroit, Mich.

Rev. Alfred Acton, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Mr. Reginald Brown, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Rev. Charles E. Doering, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Rev. C. Th. Odhner, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Mr. John Pitcairn, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.  
 Rev. E. S. Price, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.  
 Rev. George G. Starkey, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.  
 Rev. Homer Synnestvedt, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.  
 Mr. John Wells, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.  
 Miss Minnie Smith, Newark, N. J.  
 Mrs. J. C. Beard, New York City.  
 Miss Beard, New York City.  
 Mr. Henry Bowers, New York City.  
 Mrs. George Chase, New York City.  
 Miss Beatrice W. Childs, New York City.  
 Mr. Walter C. Childs, New York City.  
 Mrs. Walter C. Childs, New York City.  
 Mr. W. E. Curtis, New York City.  
 Rev. Andrew Czerny, New York City.  
 Miss Katherine Kimber, New York City.  
 Mrs. A. May, New York City.  
 Mrs. H. M. Miller, New York City.  
 Mr. George V. Nash, New York City.  
 Mr. C. C. Parsons, New York City.  
 Mrs. C. C. Parsons, New York City.  
 Dr. J. Perry Seward, New York City.  
 Rev. S. S. Seward, New York City.  
 Rev. J. K. Smyth, New York City.  
 Hon. Francis J. Worcester, New York City.  
 Mr. Anton Zellner, New York City.  
 Rev. Charles H. Mann, Orange, N. J.  
 Mrs. Charles H. Mann, Orange, N. J.  
 Rev. Adolph Roeder, Vineland, N. J.  
 Total number present, 47.

47. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

48. The report of the Recording Secretary was delivered verbally and accepted. At the instance of the Chair the provisional list of members of the Association was read.

49. The report of the Corresponding Secretary was read and accepted.

50. The report of the Treasurer was read and accepted.

51. The report of the Board of Directors was read and accepted.

52. The report of the Committee to Edit the *Principia* was read and accepted.

53. The Chairman of the Committee to Edit the "Economy of the Animal Kingdom," having been compelled to resign, Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy, rendered a verbal report. Report accepted.

54. The report of the Committee to Transcribe, Translate, and Edit the "Lesser *Principia*," was read and accepted.

55. The report of the Editor of the new edition of the "Soul ; or Rational Psychology" was read and accepted.

56. The report of the Committee on Correspondence with the London Swedenborg Society was read.

57. The report of the Committee on Scientific Statements in the Theological Writings of Swedenborg was read and accepted.

58. The reading of the reports was followed by the Annual Address of the President.

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#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

[At the Second Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, New York, April 13, 1899.]

It would have met a reasonable expectation of achievement had our Association on assembling at this, the close of the first year of its existence, been able to report its organization completed in the careful selection of the suitable committees for carrying on the several lines of work embraced in the purposes of our organization, and the readiness of these committees to enter upon their duties equipped with the requisite material in documents, information, and a zeal for the work assigned them. It is therefore no slight gratification to find that besides this necessary and by no

means inconsiderable preliminary work of our inaugural year, we are able to record a very substantial beginning made in almost all the lines of work laid out, and also some very valuable results already accomplished in realizing the hopes and aims of our Association.

It will not be out of place, I trust, to occupy a few moments of our time in briefly noting these beginnings and results. Referring to the objects of our Association as defined in our Constitution, we find them to be :—

I. To preserve, translate, publish, and distribute the scientific and philosophical works of Emanuel Swedenborg.

Under this section we may note with great satisfaction the following works begun and already well in hand :—

1. The transcription from the photolithographs of the original manuscripts of the "*Lesser Principia*," with a translation of the same into English, the amount accomplished, both of the transcription and of the translation, being already considerable.

2. The revision of the translation of the *Principia* with a view to publishing a new edition of this work ; the revision of Part I., or about one-third of the whole work being now done.

3. The revision of the first edition of the work on "*The Soul : or Rational Psychology*," now done, and the publication of the new edition already begun.

4. While not done under the auspices of our Association, the following works about to appear we may reasonably believe will owe their publication mainly to the interest inspired by our efforts, namely :—

(a) The early treatise in Swedish "*On Tremulation*" about to be published by the Massachusetts New-Church Union, Boston.

(b) A new edition of the tract on "*Ontology*," first transcribed, translated, and edited at Urbana University, and now revised, to appear from the same house.

II. Under the second object named in the Constitution,

namely : "To promote the principles taught in these works having in view, likewise, their relation to the science and philosophy of the present day ;" the results accomplished during the past year are hardly less noteworthy and gratifying. Recognizing the fact that in order to promote any science it must first be clearly defined, and in order to promulgate any principles these must first be thoroughly understood and appreciated in both their intrinsic and their relative value, we may find an especial satisfaction in noticing the amount of attention which has, since the organization of our Association, been given to the science and philosophy of Swedenborg by those of our own body and others nearly associated with us. This, as we may call it, "home study" of Swedenborg's philosophy by Swedenborgians and New-Churchmen has been promoted very considerably by the organizations formed for this purpose in Philadelphia and Chicago. The valuable papers read before these societies, together with, in some instances, the discussions which have accompanied their reading, have been through the medium of the New-Church periodicals and *THE NEW PHILOSOPHY*, brought to the attention of a wide circle of readers, and have contributed very essentially to the building up of a truer appreciation of these works of Swedenborg and of our duties in relation to them. With these instrumentalities must be mentioned the monthly publication of *THE NEW PHILOSOPHY*, devoted very largely to the special work of our Association, and through its circulation beyond the boundaries of church organizations, carrying intelligence of our work and aims into scientific circles quite generally. The articles in *The New-Church Review*, bearing directly on the topics of interest to us, are also here deserving of mention, and notably the article, in the April number, by our Secretary, on "The Scientific Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg."

If, in addition to the "study" of the principles taught in these works, there is less to report in the line of their actual "promotion," this will, I am confident, not be regarded at

present as a matter of surprise or of regret. Evidence might be adduced indeed of instances where through the publications just mentioned a serious interest has been roused in important scientific and philosophic circles in the teaching of Swedenborg on subjects relating to the physical universe and to psychology. But we may reasonably prefer to wait until at least the works of our author are once more made generally accessible to scholars through their renewed publication, before we attempt to promote by other means the principles taught in them to the world at large, and especially will it be a wise precaution for us to see that through some misconception on our part of the real nature and the real value of these writings, we do not misrepresent Swedenborg and throw obstacles in the way of the very use we desire to accomplish.

In this connection I venture to speak with commendation of what seems to be a progress made during the past year in arriving at a truer understanding of the plan and purpose of Swedenborg's scientific and philosophical writings. The subject at large is not one to be entered upon here, but to those of us who have given attention to the careful studies of the subject published during the past year, it will seem a statement fully warranted that a much clearer and more satisfactory consensus has been arrived at by the general body of students of Swedenborg's philosophy, than at any time before, and that we are just in this degree the better prepared to undertake the work of a general promulgation of his principles.

On the other hand we have come to see that the peculiar and extraordinary value of Swedenborg's scientific and philosophical writings does not consist in the array of facts that he has presented, nor even in any infallibility in his statement of them. Neither to us nor to the scientific world at large is it of supreme moment to know, regarding any fact, whether it came to us through Swedenborg's discovery or that of another. If the fact has been verified and gone into the general treasury of sound scientific knowl-

edge, then it tends to depreciate rather than to enhance the real value of the fact to have any label of private ownership attached to it. And if the fact has not been scientifically verified, no amount of dogmatic assertion of it will avail with scientific men. Our object, then, in republishing the science and philosophy of Swedenborg is not to merely present an array of already well known or obsolete data with Swedenborg's name attached, nor to awe the scientific world with dictates bearing a supernatural authority. On the general principles taught by Swedenborg we may say that infallibility does not attach to any statement of phenomenal science ; sensuous knowledge is not given by revelation ; nor can any knowledge of nature be regarded as final and exhaustive. Even though Swedenborg may have anticipated modern inventors and scholars in many important discoveries, and a certain amount of pride may justly be felt by his followers in having his deserts recognized, still now that the facts have become common property there is no call for a special publication of them under Swedenborg's name.

On the other hand what does constitute a real and positive contribution to science and philosophy to be found in Swedenborg and nowhere else, and therefore what does justify this movement of our Association to restore his science and philosophy to the knowledge of the learned world is this : The use that Swedenborg has made of the vast range of facts at his disposal and the use as indicated by him to be made of the still vaster range at our disposal, to which Swedenborg's principles will equally apply, in constructing a theory of the universe in which all that which is verified in science, all that which is rationally concluded in philosophy, and all that which is revealed in Christian theology shall be found to be in mutual harmony and mutual corroboration.

Here is where Swedenborg can be shown to meet and to satisfy a demand which is daily becoming more urgent in all the higher circles of learning, that of a *nexus* between

physical and spiritual science, an answer to the question of their mutual relation.

When we see the eagerness with which the world seizes upon anything like a satisfactory showing of the presence of a truly divine intelligence working in nature and a truly divine purpose underlying man's whole career and destiny, we may wonder that Swedenborg's explanation of these problems of nature and of life have not long ago been accepted instead of remaining hidden, while every poor fragmentary reflection of his splendid system is caught at so gladly and trumpeted abroad as a new discovery of momentous import. The mild and cautious "intimations of immortality" and of God's personal existence put forth so timidly, but who shall say not wisely, by John Fiske and William James, not to speak of the sugar-coated kind of idealism offered to the natural plane of mind by the late Professor Drummond, and another and purer idealism offered, to continue the same figure, not so much sugar-coated, as drugged with the strong spirit of intellectual pride, in the later forms of Platonism and the schools of Kant and Hegel — these show unmistakably that the world is not and will not be satisfied with any system of science which sets aside the spiritual as an outlived and no longer needed branch of knowledge. To the question why does not Swedenborg speak to this need? the answer is perhaps the true one, that we have either shut him up in the pulpit or if we have allowed him to go out and walk abroad in the public thoroughfares we have compelled him to wear the church vestments wherever he goes. Now we know that there are minds that are terrified at sight of these things, and most of all when "they think that they have seen a spirit!" The only way to allay their fears is to walk with them quietly in the twilight and talk together as man with man and produce an assurance that it is not with the voice of dogma that Swedenborg is speaking in these works, but in the effort to save the reason from the dogmatism of sense and keep it in the freedom of the light of spiritual truth.

Science can well afford to pass Swedenborg by among the world's great forgotten ones, if he has naught to hold out to her but the facts which she possesses in abundance already, caring not from whom they come or whose name they bear ; but if to the question, "What shall I do with this accumulated mass of information that shall make life here more worthy living and open vistas to higher life beyond?" Swedenborg can give an answer that can come from no one else, then must science listen with a grateful and reverent ear.

And in conclusion I would like to suggest the usefulness of keeping our eyes open to these frequent demands of the thinking world around us for the help that I have spoken of, and of doing all in our power to bring within their reach the resources to be found in Swedenborg's philosophy. This can be done, perhaps, in no way so effectually as by carefully prepared reviews of conspicuous books and articles published, if possible, in pages that will meet the notice of the writer and of the readers of the works thus reviewed. Nothing in this world where self-love plays still a very important role is more sure to attract a man's attention and rouse his interest than the expressed approbation of his work by others, unless it be the criticism of it. The followers of Swedenborg have silently sat in judgment on the fallacies of modern science without any serious attempt at making this judgment of any use to the scientific world at large. It is doubtful whether this is the course which is prompted by a true charity. It is by the direct contact with writers and thinkers through courteous but frank and sincere criticism of their positions in the light of the philosophy we wish to promote, that the contemporary world may best be brought to a practical knowledge and appreciation of the real mine of precious truth to be found in the great works which it will be our mission and our privilege to publish to the world.

FRANK SEWALL.

1618 Riggs Place, Washington, D. C.

59. The report of Committee on Publications was read and accepted.

60. The report of the Committee on Mathematical papers was read and accepted.

61. A report was read from the Swedenborg Principia Club of Huntingdon Valley.

62. A report was read from the Swedenborg Philosophy Club of Chicago, and followed by a verbal description by Rev. L. P. Mercer of the work being done under its auspices by Miss Lillian Beekman.

63. The President recommended that some action be taken in regard to the Committee on Publications, but the time for adjournment having arrived, all business had to be postponed.

64. The Association took a recess till 2.30 P. M.

#### SECOND SESSION.

THURSDAY, April 13, 2.30 P. M.

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

66. The resolutions passed by the London Swedenborg Society, as contained in the report of the Committee on Correspondence with that society, together with the recommendations of said committee, having been reread, it was voted that the said report be accepted and its recommendations adopted, and "that the American Swedenborg Scientific Association request the London Society to proceed with the publication of the *Principia* at once, and of the other works as soon as the revision and translation is in a condition to warrant such action," and "that a suitable committee be appointed to carry out this work, and that such committee be given full power to act in behalf of the Swedenborg Scientific Association on all matters connected with said work."

67. On motion of Rev. L. P. Mercer, Messrs. Mann and Sewall were appointed a committee to confer with the London Swedenborg Society.

68. It was furthermore voted that Messrs. Rendell and Tansley be accepted as cooperators from Great Britain in editing the *Principia*.

69. A Committee on Nominations was appointed consisting of Messrs. Acton, Schreck, and Nash.

70. Mr. Smyth moved that in the absence of its author, and in consideration of its unfinished state, the paper by Rev. W. F. Pendleton be postponed until after the others.

71. After considerable discussion Mr. Acton offered an amendment to Mr. Smyth's motion which was adopted providing for the immediate reading of Mr. Pendleton's paper.

72. Thus amended the motion was carried.

73. This paper on "The Law of Evolution," was then read by Rev. G. G. Starkey.

74. Mr. Mercer offered a resolution that discussion of the papers be postponed until all had been read.

75. Mr. Schreck proposed that the papers be published in one of the church periodicals.

76. Mr. Acton in seconding Mr. Mercer's motion urged the advisability of having time for such discussion at least at another annual meeting.

77. Mr. Pitcairn and others expressed a desire to have the discussion at once, whereupon Mr. Mercer withdrew his motion.

78. The discussion which followed was participated in by Messrs. Roeder, Zellner, Sewall, N. D. Pendleton, Mercer, and Odhner.

79. Mr. Schreck's proposition was put into the form of a motion and adopted.

80. The President appointed Mr. Odhner and Mr. Colton a committee to ascertain the names of those present.

81. A paper was then delivered verbally by Dr. C. Riborg Mann, of the University of Chicago, on the general subject, "Wherein do the Nebular Hypotheses of Kant, Laplace, and Swedenborg differ?"

82. A very general discussion accompanied by questions

to the author followed, participated in by Messrs. Pendleton, Parsons, Price, Swanton, Schreck, Sewall, and Mercer.

83. Mr. Odhner read a paper on "Swedenborg's Earlier Scientific Treatises in Swedish," which was briefly discussed.

84. The report of the Committee on the Roll was then read.

85. The Association adjourned until Friday, April 14, at 10 A. M.

### THIRD SESSION.

FRIDAY, April 14, 10 A. M.

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

87. The report of the Committee on Ways and Means was read and accepted.

88. Mr. Mercer moved that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged, and a new committee appointed. Motion adopted.

89. The Election of Officers having been temporarily postponed, the Secretary of the Board of Directors read the recommendations made by that body for adoption by the Association.

90. Rev. E. J. E. Schreck offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That we have listened with interest and profit to Prof. Mann's presentation of the theories of creation of Laplace, Kant, and Swedenborg, and that he be and hereby is requested to write it out in full, embodying the complete text of the theories of Laplace and Kant, and that it be offered to THE NEW PHILOSOPHY for publication.

91. On a point of order action upon this was postponed until after the consideration of the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That the Board of Directors appoint a committee to publish in usual journal form the proceedings of the two annual meetings of this Association held thus far, together with all reports and papers.

*Resolved*, That the proceedings thus published be placed on sale at a price to be determined by the committee in conjunction with the

Treasurer, that one copy be sent gratis to every member of the Association in full and good standing, and that complimentary copies be sent to the New-Church periodicals, and to such other bodies, persons, and periodicals as may be selected by the Board of Directors.

92. Considerable discussion followed over the financial ability of the society to carry out said provisions.

93. Mr. E. C. Brown suggested that THE NEW PHILOSOPHY be employed in carrying out the provisions, and that it be made the organ of the Association.

94. Mr. Schreck proposed to have THE NEW PHILOSOPHY reduced to magazine form in order to carry out Mr. Brown's plan.

95. On motion of Mr. Schreck it was finally voted that the Board of Directors be empowered to act as they see fit in this matter.

96. Mr. Schreck's resolution was then brought to a vote and carried.

97. The following resolution proposed by the Board of Directors was then taken up:—

*Resolved*, That non-members of this Association shall be eligible for membership upon the committees of the Association; and that while such persons shall be acting as members of the committees of this Association, they shall be entitled to receive *gratis* the proceedings and papers of this Association.

98. A lively discussion ensued between Messrs. Mercer, Odhner, Acton, Starkey, Swanton, Price, Sewall, Brown, and Schreck. After the intent of the measure had been carefully explained it was finally adopted.

99. Mr. Acton in withdrawing his opposition to the above resolution registered an objection to the principle involved of appealing for assistance beyond the limits of our organization.

100. The Committee on Nominations presented the following list of nominees:—

*For President.* — Rev. Frank Sewall.

*For Recording Secretary.* — John R. Swanton.

*For Corresponding Secretary.* — Dr. C. Riborg Mann.

*For Treasurer.* — Edmond Congar Brown.

*For Directors.* — C. Hjalma Asplundh, Rev. C. E. Doering, Dr. Harvey Farrington, Rev. L. P. Mercer, Ezra Nicholson, Rev. E. S. Price, Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, Rev. John Whitehead.

101. Mr. Price moved that the election be made by acclamation.

102. Mr. Roeder moved that the Secretary be instructed to cast the ballot.

103. Mr. Mercer moved that his own name be dropped and that of Dr. J. B. S. King be substituted. Motion lost.

104. Further nominations were made in open meeting as follows: —

*For Directors.* — Dr. J. B. S. King, Mr. George V. Nash, Rev. C. Th. Odhner.

105. The chair appointed Messrs. Starkey and Roeder, tellers.

106. The ballot was then taken and resulted as follows: —  
*President.* — Rev. Frank Sewall.

*Recording Secretary.* — Mr. John R. Swanton.

*Corresponding Secretary.* — Dr. C. Riborg Mann.

*Treasurer.* — Mr. Edmond Congar Brown.

*Board of Directors.* — Mr. C. Hj. Asplundh, Rev. C. E. Doering, Dr. Harvey Farrington, Dr. J. B. S. King, Rev. L. P. Mercer, Mr. Ezra Nicholson, Rev. E. S. Price, Rev. John Whitehead.

107. Mr. Price offered as a resolution, "That the Board of Directors be instructed to appoint New York as the regular place of meeting of the Association," but objection being raised by Messrs. Schreck, Mercer, and Mann, it was decided to leave the matter as it stands.

108. Mr. Smyth suggested that the parlors of the New-York Society of the New Church would be a more desirable place to hold the meetings of the Association than the Book Rooms.

109. Rev. L. P. Mercer, of Chicago, read a paper on "The Importance of Swedenborg's Doctrine to Physiology and Psychology."

110. In this connection, the President raised the question of changing the titles of "The Economy of the Animal Kingdom" and "Animal Kingdom," to "The Economy of the Soul Kingdom" and "Soul Kingdom," respectively.

111. Mr. Roeder introduced the following resolution:—

*Resolved,* That the Swedenborg Scientific Association has noted with pleasure the work done under the care and supervision of the Swedenborg Philosophy Club, of Chicago, Ill., by Miss Lillian Beekman. Feeling that such efforts should be placed in the hands of New-Church students, for examination and for the interchange of thought, the Swedenborg Scientific Association cordially sympathizes with the work so done and urges upon the members of the Swedenborg Philosophy Club the advisability of devising means for having this and similar work placed in the hands of our New-Church students.

112. Mr. Mercer spoke of the encouragement such a resolution would give to the auxiliary club, at Chicago, expressing the desire which it had to stimulate interchange of opinion on such subjects among Swedenborgians.

113. The resolution was put to vote and adopted.

114. Mr. Schreck offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved,* That a committee be appointed by the Board of Directors to prepare for the publication of a volume of all the plates and illustrations of the anatomical and other scientific books especially referred to in Swedenborg's works.

115. Mr. E. C. Brown, in behalf of the Board of Directors, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved,* That the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society be requested to consider the advisability of publishing an edition of Swedenborg's *Adversaria*.

116. The question whether there was not greater necessity for a new edition of the "Animal Kingdom" than for one of the "Economy of the Animal Kingdom," was dis-

cussed at some length, and on motion of Mr. Odhner it was voted that the former be substituted for the latter, as the first work for the Committee already appointed.

117. Mr. Swanton called attention to the importance of translating the first portions of Swedenborg's work, "On the Fibres."

118. Mr. Odhner offered his services in furnishing material for historical introductions to the new editions.

119. Mr. Odhner introduced a motion which was adopted, "That the Association, through its Corresponding Secretary, approach Dr. E. A. Whiston on the subject of securing uniformity between the work he is having translated and those about to be published by the Association."

120. Mr. Starkey offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That this Association tender its appreciative thanks to the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society for their courtesy and hospitality in offering their rooms for the present meeting of this Association.

121. The question of how long the names of those who have failed to pay their annual subscriptions to this Association shall remain upon its rolls was brought up and discussed.

122. The members of the Association extended a vote of thanks to its officers.

123. On motion of Mr. Starkey the Association adjourned, subject to the call of the Board of Directors.

JOHN R. SWANTON, *Recording Secretary*.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF  
THE ASSOCIATION AT ITS SECOND  
ANNUAL MEETING.

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REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

THE correspondence of the year falls under three heads:—

1. The correspondence with Messrs. J. Speirs and H. Spaulding, of the London Swedenborg Society, with regard to the publication of the scientific and philosophical works of Swedenborg. The result of this correspondence will be found in the report of the Special Committee appointed for this purpose, of which the Corresponding Secretary happens to be Chairman.

2. The correspondence with Mr. L. P. Ford, of London, with regard to the translation of *De Cupro*. Mr. Ford has promised to present the Swedenborg Scientific Association with a translation of the above named work and to furnish the plates for printing. The Swedenborg Scientific Association has accepted the generous offer of Mr. Ford and agreed on its part to revise the translation in sections as it is ready, and to publish the work as soon as its financial condition will warrant.

3. Correspondence to recruit the Committee on Ways and Means. This work has not flourished. The Secretary has as yet no results to report.

Respectfully submitted.

C. RIBORG MANN,  
*Corresponding Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE SWEDENBORG  
SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.

*Receipts.*

1898.		<i>Amount brought forward . .</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>
May 27.	Geo. G. Starkey, dues,	\$2.00	
" "	F. A. Boericke, "	2.00	1898.
" "	J. W. Thompson, "	2.00	Oct. 22. E. F. Robinson, dues,
" "	E. J. E. Schreck, "	2.00	Nov. 14. Edward P. Vollum, "
" "	Harvey Farrington "	2.00	1899.
" "	John Pitcairn, "	2.00	Jan. 6. E. Cranch (2 yrs.), "
" "	Alfred Acton, "	2.00	" " John Whitehead, "
" "	Edmond C. Brown, "	2.00	" 11. C. H. Mann, "
" 28.	Frank Sewall, "	2.00	" 14. L. P. Mercer, "
June 14.	L. E. Wilmarth, "	2.00	Feb. 14. T. F. Wright, "
" 20.	Riborg Mann, "	2.00	" 17. Paul Synnestvedt, "
" 23.	W. K. L. Dickson, "	2.00	" 23. William Niles, "
" "	J. C. Ager, "	2.00	" " Percy Werner, "
July 20.	N. H. Spofford, "	2.00	Mch. 2. James Reed, "
" 26.	L. C. Ager, "	2.00	" 9. C. Th. Odhner, "
" 29.	C. H. Asplundh, "	2.00	" " C. E. Doering, "
Aug. 11.	Enoch S. Price, "	2.00	" " W. F. Pendleton, "
" 15.	E. Nicholson, "	2.00	" " S. H. Hicks, "
" 24.	Samuel M. Warren, "	2.00	" " Colon Schott, "
" "	John Worcester, "	2.00	" 14. J. E. Werren, "
Sept. 6.	Fred Wohlenberg, "	2.00	" 20. Lewis Peter Ford, "
" 27.	J. W. Barwell, "	2.00	" 28. Homer Synnestvedt "
Oct. 4.	W. L. Armstrong, "	2.00	April 5. John R. Swanton, "
" 7.	G. W. Colton, "	2.00	" 8. A. J. Auchterlonie, "
" 17.	C. C. Bonney, "	2.00	" 11. Julian K. Smyth, "
	<i>Amount carried forward . .</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>	<i>\$96.00</i>

*Disbursements.*

1898.		
Aug. 30.	Postage to date . . . . .	\$2.70
Nov. 3.	" " . . . . .	1.00
" "	Binder for Minutes . . . . .	.75
" 19.	Postage to date . . . . .	.45
Dec. 13.	" " . . . . .	.20
1899.		
Jan. 6.	Paid NEW PHILOSOPHY for Printing . . . . .	12.50
" 23.	Postage, etc., to date . . . . .	.50
Feb. 23.	" " " . . . . .	.92
Mch. 4.	" " " . . . . .	.60
" 31.	" " " . . . . .	.77
	<i>Amount carried forward . . . . .</i>	<i>\$20.39</i>

	<i>Amounts brought forward</i> . . . . .	\$20.39	\$96.00
April 4.	Printing Notices of Meeting . . . . .	.95	
" "	Messenger . . . . .	.75	
" 6.	Postage to date . . . . .	.22	
" 10.	" " " . . . . .	.22	
		22.53	
	Balance of Cash on hand . . . . .		\$73.47

EDMOND CONGAR BROWN, *Treasurer.*

NEW YORK, April 11, 1899.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE Board of Directors of the Swedenborg Scientific Association hereby submits the following report of its acts during the preceding year:—

This Board was elected at the inaugural meeting of the Association, held in the City of New York, on May 27, 1898, and an organization meeting was held on the evening of that day, at which Rev. Frank Sewall was elected Chairman, and Mr. Edmond Congar Brown, Secretary.

On the afternoon of the following day, a meeting was held at which various routine business was transacted, after which the following committees were appointed:—

*Ways and Means.*—Dr. F. A. Boericke, Mr. Ezra Nicholson, and Mr. John A. Wells; this Committee was, however, subsequently enlarged, as hereinafter mentioned.

*Publication Committee.*—Dr. Louis C. Ager, Mr. G. W. Colton, Mr. C. Hj. Asplundh, and Dr. E. A. Whiston.

*Editorial Committee on Mathematical Papers.*—Dr. Riborg Mann, and Rev. C. E. Doering; to this Committee was referred for editing the paper of Mr. Beswick, which was read at the meeting of the Association.

The next meeting of the Board was held June 11, 1898, at Cleveland. At this meeting Mr. Whitehead reported the action of the General Convention in turning over to this Association the whole matter of a new edition of the *Principia*, and the Board voted that the Rev. Frank Sewall be appointed Editor-in-Chief of the same, with power to nominate assistant editors, subject to the confirmation of the Board.

The next meeting was held June 13, 1898, also at Cleveland. At this meeting Mr. Sewall announced that the *Principia* Committee of

the General Convention had resigned in favor of this Association. He also nominated as Assistant Editors, Rev. W. F. Pendleton, respecting theology; Prof. C. Th. Odhner, respecting history and bibliography; Rev. E. S. Price, respecting translation; and Drs. Riborg Mann and E. S. Holden, respecting science. The nominations of Professor Odhner, Rev. Mr. Price, and Drs. Mann and Holden were confirmed, but it was voted to leave the question of the theological section and of a proposed third member of the science section open for the present.

A communication was read from the President of the London Swedenborg Society with regard to the publication of the *Principia*, and the Corresponding Secretary of the Association was requested to respond that in the opinion of this Association it would be better for the work to be published in a scientific publishing house rather than in one dealing with theology.

A communication was read from Mr. L. P. Ford, of London, offering to the Association a translation and plates of Swedenborg's work on "Copper," and the Corresponding Secretary of the Association was requested to notify Mr. Ford that the Association would be pleased to examine the translation, and if approved and if the funds of the Association would warrant, to add it to our list of publications.

At this meeting also the Corresponding Secretary was instructed to invite the following gentlemen to join this Association and act on the Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. C. J. Whittington, Colonel Bevington, Dr. J. J. G. Wilkinson, Mr. William Mather, and Mr. D. L. Webster.

No other meetings of the Board have been held, but various resolutions have been submitted and voted on by correspondence, as provided for in the By-Laws. The business provided for by these resolutions included the appointment of the following committees:—

*To Prepare a New Edition of the Economy of the Animal Kingdom.*—Dr. Edward Cranch, Chairman; Dr. J. B. S. King, Dr. Louis C. Ager, Dr. J. T. Kent, Prof. Thomas F. Moses, Rev. E. J. E. Schreck, and Rev. John Worcester.

*To Transcribe and Edit an Edition of the Lesser Principia.*—Mr. John R. Swanton, Chairman; Rev. Lewis F. Hite, Rev. Louis H. Tafel, and Rev. Charles Doering.

*On Publication.*—Dr. Riborg Mann, Chairman; Mr. G. W. Colton, Mr. Carl H. Asplundh, and Dr. T. F. Wright. This Committee is not the same as the previously appointed Committee on Publication. The first Committee was to publish the "Proceedings"; the one now named was instructed to confer with the London Society, New-Church Board of Publication, and other agencies, at their discretion, and report their

recommendations to the Board with regard to the various works to be published by this Association.

All of the above Editorial Committees were given power to fill vacancies, or to add to their numbers, all such nominations, however, to be subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

The Board also voted that a new edition of "The Soul: or, Rational Psychology" is called for, and the assistance of this Association was offered to the translator and editor in such revision of the work as may be needed, and in securing subscriptions for the volume.

Instructions have been given as to advertising the works now in preparation by this Association, and arrangements have been made for conference with the Swedenborg Society, of London, as to their proposed plans for editing or publishing Swedenborg's scientific works, in order to avoid needless duplication of editions or other waste of labor and means.

After careful consideration of the somewhat difficult question of who should be considered members of this Association, the following resolutions were adopted:—

*Voted,* That the present actual membership of the Association be considered to consist of all those persons whose names are signed to the call issued for the meeting for organization, all who have otherwise by writing signified to the President their interest and readiness to cooperate in the work, all whose names are enrolled as attending the organization meeting in New York, May 27, 1898, and all enrolled members of auxiliary Associations in Chicago, St. Louis, and other places, and that a complete list of all such members be compiled by the Secretary of the Board of Directors (in the temporary absence of the Recording Secretary of the Association), and published in a forthcoming number of *THE NEW PHILOSOPHY*.

*Voted,* That the Treasurer of the Association be directed to communicate with all persons who have signified their desire to be considered members of this Association, or who shall be in any way entitled to be considered such members, but who shall not have paid the dues required by the Constitution of the Association, and invite them to pay said dues, and that all persons who shall not comply with said invitation within three months thereafter, shall be deemed to have declined membership in the Association.

In accordance with the instructions above given the Secretary of the Board of Directors compiled such a provisional roll, and thereupon (as Treasurer of the Association) wrote to all members whose names are thereon, who had not previously paid their dues, with the exception of a few whose addresses he has been unable to obtain.

The last business transacted by the Board was the arranging for the time and place of the Second Annual Meeting of the Association, and appointing Committees on Program and on Entertainment to have charge of the details connected therewith.

Respectfully submitted.

The Board of Directors,

FRANK SEWALL, *Chairman.*

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO EDIT THE *PRINCIPIA*.

THE Committee as elected by the Board of Directors consists of Messrs. Riborg Mann, Ph.D., Chicago University; Prof. Edward S. Holden, Astronomer, New York; the Rev. E. S. Price and the Rev. C. Theodore Odhner, of the Academy of the New Church, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.; and the undersigned as Chairman and Editor-in-Chief.

The work thus far accomplished in the Committee consists of the revision of the translation of the ten chapters constituting the first part of the *Principia*. A very careful word for word comparison has been made of the Clissold translation with the original Latin. While at first it was thought desirable to make a practically new translation, yet as the result of the critical consideration of the various renderings proposed in the Committee, the conclusion was reached that the Clissold translation is, on the whole, so reliable and acceptable as to serve in the main as the standard text, to be subjected to certain important amendments here and there and to have some omissions restored. A number of uniform changes in the translation of certain important terms, to bring them more into accord with present scientific terminology, have been agreed upon. Chief among these are the following: "velocity" for "celerity" as translation of *celeritas*—the latter being almost unknown in scientific usage; "arrangement" for "situation," *situs*, for the same reason; "entity" for "ens,"

The following is one of the omitted passages restored: "There cannot be any other proportion between the smallest elementary particles among themselves than what exists between the greatest bodies of the same figures."

Amended translations are the following: The velocity is *in the ratio between*, changed to *a mean proportional between*, the radius and the centripetal force.

The distance of the centre of gravity from the *middle centre*, changed to *centre of figure*, is greater, etc.

About three hundred changes have been made in two hundred pages of text. Sentences have here and there been reconstructed with a view to greater precision and clearness.

It has been decided in the Committee to insert no notes in the text, explanatory, critical, or comparative. Whatever matter of this kind is inserted, if any, will be in the Introduction or in an Appendix. If it should be decided to retain Mr. Clissold's Introduction, this would be a suitable place for the insertion of notes and comments bearing upon modern scientific views in relation to those advanced in the *Principia*.

FRANK SEWALL,  
*Chairman of Editorial Committee for the Principia.*

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMY OF THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

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

The Committee on the "Economy of the Animal Kingdom" has held no meeting since its appointment, owing, as would appear from the following letter of its original Chairman, to his inability to attend to the work before it.

On March 27, 1899, the Chairman, Dr. Edward Cranch, wrote the following letter to the President of the Association :—

ERIE, PA., March 27, 1899.

*Rev. Frank Sewall,*

*and Members of the Swedenborg Scientific Association :—*

The undersigned has reluctantly been driven to the necessity of resigning the chairmanship of the committee on "Economy of the Animal Kingdom," from absolute inability to command time.

Mr. Riborg Mann reported that he had been the recipient of two copies of the proof-sheets, from Mr. Colton, who has the plates and wishes to reprint directly. I asked Mr. Mann to leave at least one copy with Dr. J. B. S. King, of Chicago, who kindly offered to help on the committee, as did Dr. Ager, of New York. At a conference with yourself it was thought best to translate the third part of the "Economy," "On the Fibers," and incorporate it with the parts of the work already translated.

Yours respectfully,

EDWARD CRANCH.

The plates of the "Economy" referred to, are in excellent condition. Out of 996 pages 145 are missing, but these may yet be found.

A careful examination and comparison with the original text alone can determine whether they can be used for a new edition. The expe-

rience of the *Principia* Committee with Mr. Clissold's translation of the *Principia* leads me to believe that his work on the "Economy" will be equally acceptable.

The Committee awaits the appointment of a chairman who can command the necessary time.

I recommend that Dr. Harvey Farrington be added to the Committee.

EUGENE J. E. SCHRECK, *Chairman*.

NEW YORK, April 13, 1899.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE TRANSCRIPTION, TRANSLATION, AND EDITING OF THE LESSER *PRINCIPIA*.

As originally constituted this Committee was composed of the following members: Rev. C. E. Doering, Rev. Lewis F. Hite, Mr. John R. Swanton, Rev. Louis H. Tafel.

By vote of the Board of Directors the undersigned was made Chairman, and by vote of the members of the Committee Mr. Hite was appointed Secretary.

The active work of this Committee began in the fall, and after a vigorous correspondence, it was decided to divide the work of transcription among three men, Mr. E. F. Goerwitz, Prof. C. Vinet, and Mr. Reginald Brown, whose names were at the same time added to the membership of the Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. Mr. Goerwitz and Mr. Brown had already done some work on the "*Lesser Principia*," and Prof. Vinet's work along similar lines in correcting the Latin of the "*Spiritual Diary*" is well known. The Committee considers itself fortunate in having secured the services of such able workers, as a result of whose labors we are now able to state that we can probably begin translating in the fall. Mr. Brown has completed his share of the transcription, Mr. Goerwitz expects to get through with his by the time the New-Church Convention meets, and Prof. Vinet even earlier.

On the subject of securing a translator we are still open to suggestions, no action in that line having yet been deemed necessary. If the expense and labor do not prove too great, we hope to have the Committee provided with type-written copies of the work, so that they may follow and keep in touch with the translator. Three other points also confront us, in regard to which we shall be glad to receive advice—the introduction, notes, and indices. The last problem has been partially solved by Swedenborg himself. In a short consultation between myself

and Mr. Hite, we concluded that a long introduction would not be advisable. Six pages setting forth the position of this manuscript among Swedenborg's works and giving a short history of the theory it contains we think would be sufficient. In the notes Mr. Hite would give quotations from other works of Swedenborg to prevent readers from misinterpreting the author through lack of familiarity with his special conceptions. This, however, would involve considerable labor.

Finally, we should like to suggest whether it would not be well to extend the work of this Committee to the retranslation, or at least the reediting, of the "Principles of Chemistry." I would at any rate strongly urge that the two works be published between the same covers. They were written at about the same time and seem really to be parts of the same treatise. I also suggest that the *Philosophia Corpuscularis in Compendio* be prefaced to this work or included in the introduction. But I consider it of prime importance, since the "Lesser Principia" is as yet only in the photolithograph to publish it in Latin as well as in English. If this is not done now, and our transcriptions are lost, much time and money may be wasted later. This is a point which demands immediate attention.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN R. SWANTON, *Chairman.*

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#### REPORT ON THE PROPOSED NEW EDITION OF "THE SOUL; OR RATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY."

THE work on "The Soul; or Rational Psychology," was published in the year 1886, in an edition of between seven and eight hundred copies, a considerable number of which were subscribed for in advance in this country and in England. For some years past the work has been out of print, and yet a considerable call for copies of the work has been kept up, which would have been still larger probably, had the work been for sale and on the usual advertised lists.

The original publishers, the New-Church Board of Publication, having now undertaken to issue a new edition, a revision of the translation has been made by the translator, in which he has availed himself of a considerable list of *errata* found by the first reviewers of the work, and also of improvement suggested from other sources, and it is now hoped the translation is without serious fault, and that the work will meet with a reception even more cordial and intelligent than that which greeted it in its first appearing. A brief new introduction has been written, calling attention especially to the interest the work should pos-

sess for those engaged in what is called the new or the physiological psychology. In many other respects it is not too much to say that the work is altogether unique among treatises on the soul in its relation to the body, and to the lower planes of mental activity, and that like Swedenborg's other philosophical works, it is still the leader in ideas now generally regarded as the most important and valuable, as well as the most modern in this branch of science. The work is furnished with a very complete index.

In order that this work may appear in a style uniform with that of the other republications of the scientific works, the publishers are awaiting the decision of our Committee on Publication before fixing upon the style of binding. The work will be published from the plates already used, and will make a handsome volume of nearly four hundred pages of the size of the new Latin and English editions of the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society.

Respectfully submitted.

FRANK SEWALL.

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC STATEMENTS  
IN THE THEOLOGICAL WRITINGS OF  
SWEDENBORG.

THIS Committee consists of Rev. Messrs. T. F. Potts and T. F. Wright, Prof. C. Th. Odhner, Drs. Edward Cranch, Thomas Kent, J. B. S. King, and Rev. Adolph Roeder as Chairman.

Early in the season the Chairman addressed a circular letter to his constituents, in response to which he received a number of valuable suggestions. Some of these there have been found ways of adopting, others are not yet available.

The suggestions, given in the words of their origination, may be briefly stated thus :—

The most direct manner in which the Committee on "Swedenborg's references to scientific facts," etc., could go to work, appears to me to be an announcement of the existence and purpose of the Committee, to be made in the various New-Church journals, with an invitation to the public to address the Committee in reference to "knotty" questions arising from such statements. This may or may not elicit any questions, but seems the first thing to do. I would like to see a collection made of all such questions, whether we know how to answer them or not. Old father Burnham was a master in propounding such puzzling questions, and you will find a list of them in the reports of the "General Conference of New-Church Ministers," some twenty-five years ago. The various journals of the New Church, in years past, contain many such questions, with tentative or successful explanations. We

ought to have a list of them, and republish the best. I would offer to assist in making such a list. But the first thing is to create an interest in the work of the Committee among the New-Church people. This will also help to keep up the interest in the Swedenborg Scientific Association.

This was the first set of suggestions. The second is as follows:—

I would suggest as a practical working plan that the Chairman direct each member of his committee to study some particular work of the church with reference especially to the scientific statements thereof, and to verify the same when possible, by experimentation and scientific authorities, and to expound the whole thing in notes or remarks.

The illustration of sulphur and sun, several times used in the "True Christian Religion," and I think in "Conjugal Love," could easily be verified, or not.

The subject of the "Coronary Arteries" needs to be gone over thoroughly.

It would perhaps be within the function of the committee to go over the development of the "Embryo," as an ultimate correspondence to "Regeneration." Perhaps not.

I would take any work you direct me to, but would prefer "Divine Love and Wisdom," or "True Christian Religion."

It would perhaps concentrate the work of the committee, if some *one* work was selected for the whole committee to work on. The Chairman in that case could give each member his department of science, or his portion of the work.

The Chairman has followed this suggestion and has assigned the "Divine Love and Wisdom," the "Divine Providence," and the "Apocalypse Explained," in a tentative way. The results from "Divine Providence" are all in hand, and it is expected that they will soon appear in one of our New-Church periodicals, though possibly not in time for this meeting of the Association. When they do appear, they will be, no doubt, the source and origin of further work to be done along these lines. It cannot be claimed that the work on "Divine Providence" has been exhaustively done at all, but the general tendency or direction in which the above suggestion can be carried out, will doubtless appear from the responses elicited by the paper referred to, and further efforts can be guided by such results.

Here is a third suggestion:—

From what I already know of Swedenborg's and other science, I am certain that we shall not be able to criticize the scientific statements in his theological works with thoroughness until the scientific system is developed. Many of his statements may be demonstrated however, even those flatly contradictory to modern views, by hunting up the experiments themselves, especially those taken from out-of-the-way sources. Ultimately we may be able to enter the experimental field ourselves. The publishing of his scientific system should precede any too hasty condemnation of his statements, but we may set to work affirmatively and even gather negative material without waiting for that.

The first duty of your committee would be, I should think, to make a list or index of the passages to be examined. After the indexing has been completed the committee might combine the two propositions already made, by

taking up one work at a time, and at the same time dividing the work among the members so that each may work as nearly as possible in his own field.

Next, a piece of work might be undertaken which does not seem to have occurred to the members of your committee. You might look up the standard scientific works before Swedenborg's time to find the sources from whence he drew his scientific ideas, I mean merely to include such matters as poisoning by mixing spiders with food and so forth. These early experiments may then be verified or disproved. Finally, there is a vast or at least a large series of experiments which, because out of the line of popular theories, lie neglected in out-of-the-way corners. To hunt these down will require patience and a good deal of grubbing, but I think it will have to be done sooner or later.

After some further correspondence, the points thus far made were condensed and elaborated into the following shapes respectively:—

I favor [says a member of the committee] the plan of work shadowed forth: first, an indexing of the references to science, and second, actual work at the problems.

The indices which have already been compiled ought to assist very much. We cannot hope to demonstrate the truth of every scientific statement, for that would be equivalent to demonstrating the truth of Swedenborg's whole natural philosophy, the work of the whole Association. It may very well happen, however, that the questions put to the committee, will involve the agreement between Swedenborg's earlier and later scientific ideas. The committee will make itself very useful to the rest of the Association if it can catalogue the scientific statements in the theological works so as to tell us whether such and such a teaching taken from his earlier writings is directly confirmed in the later. The scientific statements, forming our proper field of work, should, of course, be confirmed or disproved from the experimental knowledge of the day, etc. There is no reason why some member of the committee should not look up questions propounded in former years, and furnish the rest of the committee with the results of his investigations. In the matter of indexing I think we should be thorough; in the matter of interpreting separate statements we must do what we can.

The matters referred to in the above can best be gathered from the following points.

As to the field to be covered by this Committee there was some little uncertainty as to the manner in which the work might be done without infringing upon or interfering with the work to be done by other bodies in this Association. This took shape somewhat after this fashion.

Speaking on the point of indexing all of Swedenborg's references to things scientific, one member of the Committee says:—

It is a very large contract, indeed, and to accomplish it we should enlist the cooperation of quite a number of New-Church scholars not now members of the Committee. It is a subject which really ought to come up before the next annual meeting of the Association, as it involves the development of New-Church science as a whole.

A vast amount of work in this direction has already been done. There has been, for instance, *compiled* just such an index as suggested, and I have completed, years ago, a large index containing all references to any subject connected with botany. This is at the disposal of the Association, and may be of use to the Committee in case the question of the "sexes" in the Vegetable Kingdom should come up for discussion, or should be "referred" to us.

Take, for instance, this question of vegetative sex. While our first duty, in trying to solve this question, is to collect all the statements in the Writings which bear upon it, and our second duty is to sit down to study these, and bring out their *rationale*, yet it would manifestly be unwise not to accept whatever light we may gain from those who, before us, have studied this question. No end of articles have been written on this subject, *pro* and *con*, and we had better learn all we can from our elders. An index to such explanations of the scientific statements as have appeared in the periodical literature of the church, therefore, seems to me a first desideratum, and more directly within the immediate sphere of our Committee.

In speaking of indexing a certain work, this same member gives a preference to another plan, which is the last of the suggestions submitted for consideration:—

Instead of each member indexing all the scientific statements in some particular book, more thorough work would be accomplished by each one making an index *for his own special science*. An astronomer would be apt not to notice many references to anatomy; an anatomist would overlook statements bearing on mineralogy; a mineralogist would neglect botany, etc. The Writings contain infinite things, but each reader really sees in them that which his love leads him to look for. Now we have many specialists in the Association, and the work ought to be divided up among all of these, in order to insure the greatest possible completeness. It is simply too much for the Committee alone.

The Association will note from this report, that a number of tangible points have been made, and we hope before another year of work has passed, to be able to present still more satisfactory evidences of effort made and result obtained.

Respectfully submitted.

ADOLPH ROEDER.

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PHILADELPHIA, April 8, 1899.

*To the Members of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, Assembled:—*

DEAR BRETHREN: The Principia Club, of Philadelphia, have requested their Corresponding Secretary to send you a brief account of their organization and the studies they have pursued during the past year.

The first meeting of the Club was held March 21, of last year, when about thirty ladies and gentlemen met together to consider the formation of a Swedenborg Scientific Association, as proposed by the Rev. Frank Sewall, in *The New-Church Messenger*. The Rev. John Faulkner Potts was elected Chairman, and the Rev. C. T. Odhner, Secretary for the meeting. Before adjournment, a resolution was passed, carrying these officers over till the local movement thus set on foot could be more definitely crystallized. To this end a committee was appointed at

the next meeting to frame a brief and comprehensive instrument of organization. At a subsequent meeting the form presented by the Committee was adopted, with one or two unimportant alterations.

The uses of the Club were defined as those of studying New-Church science and assisting in the general uses of the Swedenborg Scientific Association. The officers of the Club are as follows: Rev. J. F. Potts, Chairman; Rev. E. S. Price, Vice-Chairman; Prof. C. Vinet, Treasurer; Rev. C. E. Doering, Recording Secretary; Dr. H. Farrington, Corresponding Secretary. These gentlemen together constitute a Business Committee.

A Committee on Scientific Research has also been appointed.

Monthly meetings have been held, with only occasional intermission, ever since last July.

A number of meetings were taken up in reading and discussing Dr. Wilkinson's introduction to the "Animal Kingdom." Bishop Pendleton gave a very interesting and exhaustive explanation of the *Principia* charts, designed by Miss Beekman, of Chicago, which was practically a study of the elementary principles in Swedenborg's idea of creation. Portions of Miss Beekman's collation of facts in modern physiology with those of Swedenborg, have been gone over, and the work is now in the hands of the Committee on Scientific Research, whose duty it is to consider more particularly the subjects proposed for discussion and give the members the benefit of their labors.

The Club has enjoyed many very interesting and instructive discussions on scientific topics in the light of the teachings of Swedenborg.

HARVEY FARRINGTON, M. D.,

*Corresponding Secretary, Principia Club of Philadelphia.*

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#### REPORT OF THE SWEDENBORG PHILOSOPHY CLUB OF CHICAGO.

Meetings were held in Chicago in the interest of the study of Swedenborg's scientific works, one immediately preceding and the other immediately following the organization of the American Swedenborg Scientific Association. In pursuance of the agreement at the last of these, a meeting was called early in the fall, and The Swedenborg Philosophy Club was formally organized. There is an active membership, consisting of those pledged to study some branch of Swedenborg's scientific teaching and present from time to time the results of such study. Meetings of the active members have been held on the last Saturday in each month, from October to the present time. There is

also an associate membership, consisting of those interested in assisting the work of the Club, and open meetings are provided for the associate members from time to time, at which more general and popular papers are read.

As to the work of the Club, we may report that the fragment on the corpuscular philosophy, a translation of which was presented at the last meeting of this Association, was handed to Miss Lillian Beekman, who has had some years of careful study of the *Principia*, with the request that she would collate its propositions with the teaching of the *Principia*. The result was a carefully prepared chart relating the several auras and the derivative spirituous fluids in man, animal, and insect; and tracing the development of creation in successive steps from the natural point and first aura to the earths. The chart hangs in the Book Rooms open to the use of the students of the Club. A copy of the same was also sent to the *Principia* Club, of Huntingdon Valley.

After the preliminary work, a paper was prepared by Mr. Mercer, on "The Natural Point and First Aura," and one by Miss Beekman, on "The Solar Vortices and the Development of Suns; the Magnetic Aura, the Earths, Ether, Air, and Water." Both of these papers were printed in *THE NEW PHILOSOPHY*.

Discussions followed these papers, in which the Club derived especial benefit from the studies of Prof. Riborg Mann, who was engaged in revising the translation of the *Principia*. Dr. J. S. B. King gave two papers, one on the "Coronary Vessels," and one on the "Pineal Gland." Mr. Paul Synnestvedt presented a preliminary paper on "Magnetism and Electricity," and has the subject under further consideration, to be more fully treated before the Club at some future day. Miss Beekman has also made a study on the relation of the magnetic aura to the ether and written out the results for the consideration of those especially engaged in this study.

The President of this Association called the attention of the President of the Philosophy Club to Dr. John Haldane's article on "Vitalism," in *The Nineteenth Century* for September, 1898, and suggested a review in the light of Swedenborg's "Animal Kingdom." The review was carefully prepared and appeared under the title of "Swedenborg and Physiological Hypothesis," in *The New-Church Review* for January, 1899. The same essay was read to the students of Hering Homœopathic College.

At an open meeting in Steinway Lecture Hall, in January, the subject of "The Importance of the *Principia* to the New-Church Theologian" was presented by the Rev. N. D. Pendleton; and "The Importance of the *Principia* to Science," by Prof. Riborg Mann. Both these papers have appeared in *The Messenger* and *New-Church Life*.

The Executive Committee of the Club, being impressed with the usefulness of securing Miss Beekman's peculiar talent and intimate knowledge of the scientific works, have engaged to support her at a modest salary to collate the doctrine of the "Animal Kingdom" with the most important facts, theories, and admissions of modern physiological science. Typewritten copies of the first instalment of her work have been submitted to some of those interested in this study, and a copy is herewith submitted for examination. She has gone forward with the work, and a considerable body of manuscript awaits the formulation of some plan by which to make it of common use to students.

Respectfully submitted for the Philosophy Club, with assurances of its deep interest in the work of the Association.

L. P. MERCER, *President.*

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April 10, 1899.

*Mr. Edmond Congar Brown:—*

DEAR SIR: AS Chairman of a committee to publish the papers of the last meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, I desire to report that no papers have been placed in my hands for publication.

Yours truly,

LOUIS C. AGER.

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#### REPORT ON "THE INFINITE."

*To the Committee of the Swedenborg Society:—*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have examined the work entitled "Outlines of a Philosophical Argument on the Infinite," etc. (submitted to me by the Committee) with a view to discovering its suitability or otherwise for republication by the Swedenborg Society. The book was prepared and translated by Dr. James John Garth Wilkinson from Swedenborg's original, and was published by the Swedenborg Association, in 1847. It is a demy octavo, consisting of Titles and Contents, 7 pages; Introductory Remarks by the Translator, 21 pages; the Author's Dedication and Preface, 4 pages; and the Text, 145 pages. To these is added an Index of Subjects, 10 pages. In all, 190 pages.

In order to present as adequate and complete an account of the work as possible, I deemed it necessary to inform myself of the fullest particulars concerning the matter and composition of the book. I have, therefore, considered the circumstances under which Swedenborg wrote

this treatise, its relation to and connection with the *Principia*, which was published in the former part of the same year as the original of "The Infinite" was, namely, in 1734, in the same cities and by the same publisher. The treatise may be said to be in advance, spiritually, of the *Principia*, inasmuch as the author forecasts the doctrine of spiritual media — a position he occupied until his spiritual sight was opened by the Lord, in 1745.

In the year 1795 a translation, made by the pupils of the Rev. W. Cowherd, and revised by him, was published in Manchester. Nothing further appears to have been done with the work until Dr. Wilkinson's translation was published, in 1847.

It seemed to be my first duty to read the translation of 1847 through with great care in order to form some estimation of it as simply reading matter. I am able to state that as an English composition it is without reproach, both pleasant and forcible in style. The Introductory remarks, by Dr. Wilkinson, could not be more apt, nor in better form. The next step was to examine the text as a translation of Swedenborg's Latin original. For this purpose I used the reprint published in 1886, as edited by the Rev. T. M. Gorman, M. A., having first satisfied myself that Mr. Gorman's edition is a faithful reprint of the work as published by its author.

The Latin is a crown octavo of 270 pages, without an Index or, of course, the editorial matter introduced in the English version by its translator. It is printed in large type with full spaces and margins. The text, printed in English, would probably occupy about 200 pages of the same size as the Latin.

Considering that a superficial comparison of the original with Dr. Wilkinson's rendering would not result in a sufficiently reliable and useful estimation of its worth, I decided to examine, *as if for actual revision*, the book entrusted to me. Beginning, then, at the title page, I compared and recorded my suggested variations as far as the thirteenth page of the Latin and the sixth page of the English. This is, of course, not enough to enable me to pronounce decisively as to the character of the whole work, but it may help in indicating its general quality. I find that, so far, several graces of expression or style in Dr. Wilkinson's composition, as representatives of Swedenborg's Latin, are unwarranted; that the translation, though in all respects pleasant reading, is, perhaps, a little too free; that some phrases are rather interpretations than translations, or may answer to nothing in Swedenborg's composition; and so there may be misrepresentations of the author's intentions. To take nothing more serious than the title of the treatise. Dr. Wilkinson describes it as "Outlines of a Philosophical Argument on the Infinite, and the First Cause of Creation; and on the Intercourse Between

the Soul and the Body." Instead of this, I understand Swedenborg to entitle his work, "A Forecast of a Rational Philosophy Concerning the Infinite and the Final Cause of Creation; also Concerning the means of Operation Between the Soul and the Body" (or, Concerning the Means of the Soul's and the Body's Operation).

There appears to be three courses open to the Committee in undertaking the republication of this book. First, to reprint the book as it stands; second, to publish a revision of the text; or, third, to publish a new translation.

If the Committee contemplate issuing a readable treatise, from the point of English style, without much concern as to the author's more minute intentions — for I have seen nothing perverting his meaning — they should reprint the existing edition. By following the second course and sending forth a revision of Dr. Wilkinson's work, they would risk the probability of destroying the continuity and rhythm of the composition, by having literalisms patched into a style of composition which will not bear them. Even to revise would mean to recompose, because in several cases that I have observed, an inversion of the sentence would be required. The third course, which I recommend, would leave the present translation unimpaired as part of the church's literature, besides providing an opportunity of presenting the work in a new and, perhaps, more closely-fitting dress.

Whichever of these courses the Committee may decide to follow, the Introduction, by Dr. Wilkinson, should be retained, if possible. It would, with advantage, be preceded with a preface, stating, with permission, the connection it established between Emerson and the editor, and dealing briefly with the relation of the book's theme to Swedenborg's subsequent doctrine of the Infinite and the Intercourse of the Soul and the Body (which Dr. Wilkinson does not treat), as well as bringing the work into line with the scientific speculations since the present Introduction was written — such as Spencer's speculations of the Infinite, etc.

I am convinced that no better book could be selected with which to introduce Swedenborg's scientific writings to the world than this, since it will show in a concise manner his standpoint, and at the same time impart some preparatory truths respecting spiritual philosophy which may lift the mind from the gross contemplations in which they are now immersed, and perhaps make a way plain for subsequent reception of spiritual truths.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I am, etc.,

JAMES HYDE.

March 3, 1899.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MATHEMATICAL PAPERS.

DURING the year one set of papers on "Magnetic Declination" was referred to this Committee. Having found errors in the work it is the unanimous opinion of the Committee that it would be unwise to publish the paper. The Committee therefore recommend that the work be returned to its author with thanks.

Respectfully submitted.

C. RIBORG MANN.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE LONDON SWEDENBORG SOCIETY.

THE London Swedenborg Society, at a meeting held last June, empowered their Advisory Board to proceed as soon as practicable with the publication of the scientific and philosophical works of Swedenborg. Since the American Swedenborg Scientific Association had just been organized for the same purpose, this Committee was appointed to confer with the London Society, so that the work of both might be planned with the least interference, it being agreed by all concerned that a duplication of work would be most unfortunate.

Accordingly the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by the Board of Directors of this Association:—

*Whereas*, Since the meeting of the Board in Cleveland last June, the Swedenborg Society in London have resolved to undertake the republishing of the scientific and philosophical works of Swedenborg, and have expressed a desire to cooperate with those in America interested in the work; and

*Whereas*, It is desirable to avoid any needless duplication of editions or other waste of labor and means in attaining the one main object, therefore it is

*Resolved*, That the London Swedenborg Society be consulted as to their proposed or preferred plans for editing and publishing the works, and

*Resolved*, That in case the London Society should become the publisher in part or of the whole of the works edited by the Swedenborg Scientific Association, said London Society shall be invited to nominate two associate editors residing in England for each of the works to be so published.

These resolutions, together with a letter asking for a definite proposition from the London Society, were sent to London. The reply was in the form of the following resolutions which had been passed by the London Society:—

It having been reported by letter from Mr. Mann, of the University of Chicago, that the Swedenborg Scientific Association of America has undertaken the retranslation into English and the editing of Swedenborg's *Principia*;

*Resolved*, That this Committee cooperate with the Swedenborg Association in the production of the above work.

*Resolved*, That a report on the *Principia* be obtained from Prof. S. P. Thompson, Prof. Oliver Lodge, or some other suitable scientific man.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. J. R. Rendell and Mr. Spalding be a sub-committee to obtain such report, the expense connected with it not to exceed ten guineas.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. J. R. Rendell and the Rev. I. Tansley be appointed associate editors to cooperate in the retranslation of the *Principia*, but on the understanding that, like all the American editors, they are to do so without remuneration.

*Resolved*, That the *Principia* be published if possible in the size and style of "The Brain."

*Resolved*, That the Swedenborg Scientific Association be requested to inform this society of the result of their investigation into the Rev. A. Clissold's version of the "Economy of the Animal Kingdom," and that any further action be postponed until the report be received.

*Resolved*, That the Committee approve of the translation of "The Soul," by the Rev. F. Sewall, already published, and recommend the adoption of it.

*Resolved*, That the Swedenborg Scientific Association be asked to state whether the term *Lesser Principia* includes the seven parts of the *Principia Rerum Naturalium* that are in manuscript in Stockholm, and otherwise what works they include under that title.

*Resolved*, That subject to the approval of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, Dr. Wilkinson's translation of "The Infinite, and the Final Cause of Creation," be reprinted with such alterations as Dr. Wilkinson may devise.

That the second and third volumes of the *Opera Mineralia et Philosophica*, while dealing chiefly with practical matters, also deal with theoretical questions of great interest;

*Resolved*, That it is desirable that these volumes should be translated and published as soon after the completion of the *Principia* as possible.

*Resolved*, That the society be recommended to invite the cooperation of the Swedenborg Scientific Association in the production of an English translation of the *Dædalus Hyperboreus*.

The Committee refers these resolutions to this Association for action. We recommend that the American Swedenborg Scientific Association request the London society to proceed with the publication of the *Principia* at once, and of the other works as soon as the revision and translation is in a condition to warrant such action. We also recommend that a suitable committee be appointed to carry out this work, and that such committee be given full power to act in behalf of the Swedenborg Scientific Association on all matters connected with said work.

Respectfully submitted.

C. RIBORG MANN, *Chairman*.

### PROPOSITION TO FORM A "SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION."\*

[From *The New-Church Messenger*, of March 9, 1898.]

THE measures adopted at the last meeting of the Convention looking to the republication of Swedenborg's *Principia*, is only one of the numerous indications of a reawakened interest, in many quarters in and out of the church, in the scientific and philosophic writings of Swedenborg, and of a desire to have those which are now out of print republished, and those which have never been published now translated and given to the world.

The extraordinary value of these writings and their important bearing on the science of to-day and of the future have been attested by high scientific authority from the time of the *Acta Eruditorum*, published in Swedenborg's time, to the present day, and far from being left behind in the rapid strides of scientific discovery, it would appear that the principles they contain are more applicable to the researches of science at present than at any former time. *The American Journal of Science*, Vol. V., in the number of February, 1898, in an article on "Kant as a Natural Philosopher," mentions

\*This call is inserted here as part of the history of the formation of the Association. It should have come in the first Bulletin.

the endorsement by the astronomers Nyrèn and Holden of Swedenborg's claim to priority in the discovery of the nebular hypothesis of the formation of the universe, and refers to the translation of M. Nyrèn's article in *The New-Church Review*. The editor of the "Bibliography of Chemistry," published by the Smithsonian Institution, in 1893, adds this note to the title of the "Principles of Chemistry," by Emanuel Swedenborg: "Swedenborg attempts in this work to explain the phenomena of chemistry and physics on geometrical principles, anticipating modern stereochemistry." In the series of "Kantstudien," edited by Prof. H. Vaihinger, of the University of Halle, in Germany, there is promised as soon to appear a contribution by Professor Doering, of Berlin, on "Swedenborg's Significance in the Idealistic Tendency of Kant," and also other articles on Kant's indebtedness to Swedenborg. Among New-Churchmen there is also a growing conviction of the need of a more thorough acquaintance with Swedenborg's own science and philosophy, in order to truly understand the meaning of the terms he uses in his theology, and also of the great service to be rendered to the science and philosophy of to-day by a clear showing of the harmonious relations that must exist between a true science and a true theology, in accordance with Swedenborg's statement in the work on "Influx," that from a philosopher he became a theologian, even as the apostles were taken from fishermen, "since a fisherman spiritually is one who investigates and teaches natural truths and afterwards spiritual truths in a rational manner."

Recognizing the fact that it is unworthy of a true appreciation of Swedenborg's teachings to allow his great philosophic and scientific writings to remain unpublished or to pass out of print, a number of persons, both of the ministry and the laity, including scientific scholars and professors, and connected with both the Academy of the New Church and the General Convention, have expressed the wish that there might be organized independently of nationality and of any of the existing ecclesiastical bodies of the church, a Swedenborg Scientific Association, having for its object

“The Translation and Publication of the Scientific and Philosophic Writings of Swedenborg and the Study and Discussion of the Principles Laid Down Therein.” It is thought that upon the broad basis of this important use many will gladly unite in cordial cooperation who have for various reasons acted apart in their ecclesiastical affiliations, that our brethren in England will respond, and that the church in every section will feel the benefit of this reunion, and will rejoice in the work it may be enabled to perform.

It has been thought that it would be well to call at an early day and at a convenient place a meeting for the forming of such an Association and the adoption of the necessary rules and the arranging of a plan of work. Before doing so, however, it is desirable that opportunity should be offered to all interested in the movement for a free expression, either to the undersigned or through the columns of the several journals where this preliminary proposition appears, as to the usefulness of such a body as is proposed, the form it had better assume, and the best plan of proceeding in effecting the organization, together with suggestions as to the most convenient time and place, whether in connection with the annual meetings of any of the larger bodies of the church, or at a time and place apart. All responses and suggestions should be published and sent to the undersigned before the first of May next. This late day is named in order that opportunity may be allowed for a wide publication of this notice, and to enable our friends in foreign countries to be heard from. In behalf of many interested and at their request I have submitted this proposition.

FRANK SEWALL.

1618 Riggs Place,  
Washington, D. C.

### WHAT DOES SWEDENBORG'S *PRINCIPIA* CONTAIN FOR NATURAL SCIENCE?\*

To answer this question in a satisfactory manner would require many days. We would have to spend an evening like this on every chapter. So the answer that I will make to this inquiry to-night is but a fragment. I shall have to content myself with mere statements of the most conspicuous benefits which a student of natural science may gain from a careful study of the work before us.

In entering upon the discussion of this subject it will be eminently proper, as we have for the present dropped theology and are talking upon a strictly scientific basis, to clear our minds with a definition. It will be necessary at the outset to bring distinctly before us the nature of science, in order to understand in what a real benefit to her really consists. Therefore we will begin our talk with this definition: Science is classified knowledge. We notice that science consists of two essentials: knowledge, that is, things known — facts, observations — and organization of those facts. Since the facts of the *Principia* are the scientific facts of Swedenborg's own day, it is evident that the value of the book before us cannot lie in them. Hence we must look for the answer to our question in the classification which it contains. This will necessitate our reminding ourselves of a few things about the nature of classification.

The number of different ways in which we can classify any given set of facts is practically infinite. For example, suppose you were called upon to classify a room full of people. You might classify them by their height, by the color of hair or eyes, by their nationality, by their occupations, or in many other ways. Having this picture before us, we note three facts. The first is, that before entering upon any

\*Read before the Swedenborg Philosophy Club, of Chicago, by Riborg Mann, Ph. D., Associate in Physics in the Chicago University.

classification whatever, you invariably have some plan of organization present in your mind. For example, if you classify by nationality it might be because your plan was to find out how many of the people could talk German. The second is, that there are degrees of organization, some being more superficial, others more natural. The third is, that the benefit to be gained by any classification depends on the original plan of organization. Let us illustrate this with our room full of people. If we classify them by height or the color of their eyes, has anything been gained? Surely very little. If we classify them according to their professions has anything been gained? Surely something, for is not this organized labor which is recognized as beneficial? Though this is a useful classification, is it the ideal one? No; for are not men engaged in professions distasteful to them, not in accord with their natures? Hence all such classifications are in a way arbitrary. An ideal classification recognizes some general principle of nature as its centre and foundation. Thus when we come to recognize that the fact that man was made in the image and likeness of God means not only that each individual man is so organized, but also that each nation in a greater degree, and each world in a still greater degree, and the entire universe in the eminently greatest degree, are, when rightly understood, built on the same plan, when we fully grasp the meaning of this, I say, what wonders may we learn of the laws governing the life of a single man from viewing the life of a nation! How are we aided in our understanding of the life of a nation by observing attentively the life of a single man!

But I am wandering from my strictly scientific standpoint and must return. What points have we established thus far? To the three mentioned above, which were: First, that before making any classification there is always a pre-arranged plan of organization; second, that there are degrees of classification; third, that the amount to be gained by any classification is proportional to the degree of the

classification ; we have added a fourth which is, that the ideal system of classification is one which makes all facts revolve about one grand central principle.

Every one instinctively recognizes these principles of classification. In fact, it is the life work of every scientist to try to formulate a few general principles which shall govern all the facts of scientific observation. This he does by first forming a theory based on a few observations. He then collects all the facts which bear on the subject, compares them with each other, modifies the original theory to fit certain stray facts which do not fit into his original conception, till he finally arrives at a theory that will embrace as many facts as possible. But note that in this case, too, the plan of organization goes first, the coordination of the facts comes second.

How a new classification of old facts according to some new plan may totally revolutionize science is to be learned from the history of every branch of study. The science of optics, for instance, was retarded in its progress some hundred and fifty years because Sir Isaac Newton adopted what is known as the corpuscular theory of light and based his work upon it. So great was the influence of this giant of science that humanity made no progress in optics for nearly two centuries, till Thomas Young conceived the wave theory, and proved it to be the correct one. The same is true of electricity. As long as the study of electrical facts was based on the old fluid theories, progress was slow, till a Faraday introduced a new theory, and a Maxwell put that theory into usable mathematical form and, behold, the wonderful growth of electricity since. Thus I might go on indefinitely giving instances of the value of the theory back of all scientific classification to show that the progress of human science is in direct proportion to what we have defined above as the degree of the classification.

The ideal science, then, is the one whose plan of organization is most ideal ; whose centre and foundation is some

grand principle such as the one given above in connection with our room full of people. This, in brief, is the meaning of the *Principia* to science. It is an ideal classification because it contains a grand plan of organization of the universe founded on one simple universal principle.

There will be time, I think, to give a brief outline of this principle, and the conclusions that can be drawn from it. The principle as stated by Swedenborg, is this: "Nature is similar to herself in things greatest and in things least." We also meet it in the form: "Thus in the Macrocosm we see the Microcosm, and in the Microcosm we see the Macrocosm."

Now what does this mean? In the first place it means that there are degrees in nature, in that we have greatest and least, and, having these degrees, it means further that the plan of organization throughout them all is the same. But let us illustrate by an example how we may have different degrees with the same plan of organization, using for this purpose our friends, the room full of people. Looked on merely as a number of individuals, they are all of one degree. If, however, we organize these individuals into a corporation, using as our plan of organization a man's body and the uses which its own members perform for it, we have another discrete and higher degree. Thus we select some of the individuals to be the eyes of the corporation, others for ears, others for heart and lungs, etc. And so we get a larger man built up from smaller men, the architecture of the organism being in both cases the same.

How familiar this all is! Every one recognizes what is known among readers of Swedenborg as the doctrine of the Grand Man. The principle which we have mentioned as the centre and soul of the *Principia* has precisely the same meaning for matter that the doctrine of the Grand Man has for men. Hence it might rightly be called the doctrine or principle of the grand universe, for, according to it, atoms are images and likenesses of the infinite universe, just as man is the image and likeness of God.

It were much easier for me to go on now into details and show how a spiral motion is chosen as the most perfect motion, and how by composition of spirals on spirals particles are formed from and by the infinite Creator through that spiral motion; I might make diagrams to show how any one particle is itself formed from smaller particles, and how it subsequently takes, in a larger particle, a place similar to that in which it holds a smaller particle in its own structure. This I say, were easier for me, if not for you, than to refrain. But time forbids, so I must go on to the conclusion which is this: Suppose all this be so, what then? Are we any better off than we were before? When we apply what was said at the beginning of our talk about degrees of classification, we see that we are better off, for have we not a classification that unites all the universe of matter under one grand principle? Hence we have here an ideal classification, and, since it is ideal, the benefit to be derived from it must be infinite, as we have shown above.

But, you persist, is not such a classification too ideal to be of any practical value to scientists in this practical age? Does it explain facts better than the old theories?

It does. The rotation of the moon, in that it revolves once on its axis in the same time that it revolves once about the earth, is a necessary consequence of the philosophy of this book and not the rare coincidence that science makes it.

The mechanism of gravitation is explained by this theory in a way that is both sound, that is, explaining all facts, and yet thinkable, which can be said of no other attempted explanation.

According to the *Principia*, matter, as it became more and more compounded, became more and more inert, so that such material things as we see about us are the most inert of all. This derivation of matter necessitates the conclusion that the less compounded a substance is, the more powerful and free it is. This allows a reasonable conception of how germs, for instance, can have so wonderful a make-up that,

though the chemist cannot distinguish between them, yet one grows into a rose, another into a cabbage, another into a tree, or another into a bush.

These are but three of the facts of science that are better explained by the theory contained in the *Principia* than by any other hypothesis. There are many more. In reality I am convinced that all facts when worked over in the light of the plan of organization before us must come into this same category.

But besides explaining facts more satisfactorily than other theories, the *Principia's* greatest benefit to science lies not here, but in this, that one who accepts this view of creation finds, not a universe of dead matter as science would have it, but a universe with an infinite Creator at its centre. He finds this infinite Creator's infinite life filling His universe at every instant. Thus the world becomes, under the touch of this wonderful book, alive with infinite life. Every stone tells its history of spirals of spirals and spirals on spirals. Every grain of dirt, even, is an expression of life, not of death. This philosophy does not attempt to reason back from a lifeless matter to inert atoms with certain hypothetical "inherent properties." Nor does it postulate vortices full of energy with no definite thinkable first cause; but in a perfectly clear and rational way it gives us as the origin of our world infinite God with his infinite Life; it gives us as the daily support of our world infinite God with his infinite Life; it gives us as the end of our world, infinite God with his infinite Life.

Thus it leads us into a world of life, not one of inert matter; it turns us away from, not towards, materialism; in the words of Swedenborg himself: "The greater worshippers of nature we are, the greater worshippers of the Divine we may become." Can any man-made theory equal this?

*To the Editor of The New Philosophy:—*

AT a meeting of the "Principia Club of Philadelphia," held at Huntingdon Valley, Dec. 18, 1899, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

*Whereas*, It has pleased the Lord to call into the spiritual world our venerable brother, Dr. James John Garth Wilkinson, of London, on Oct. 18, 1899;

*Resolved*, That the "Principia Club of Philadelphia" hereby records its grateful appreciation of the eminent services which Dr. Wilkinson, during a period of sixty years, has performed in the cause of New-Church Science and Philosophy, as the first editor and translator of Swedenborg's scientific works, and as the first and untiring champion and expounder of that system of natural truth which has been provided in these works for the use of the Lord's New Church.

*Resolved*, That the resolution respecting Dr. Wilkinson be communicated to the editor of THE NEW PHILOSOPHY, to the editor of *New-Church Life*, to the Secretary of the Swedenborg Scientific Association, and to the Swedenborg Philosophy Club of Chicago.

C. E. DOERING,  
*Secretary.*