

THE GENERATIVE ORGANS.

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THE
GENERATIVE ORGANS,

CONSIDERED

ANATOMICALLY, PHYSICALLY AND PHILOSOPHICALLY.

A POSTHUMOUS WORK

OF

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ADVERTISEMENT.

A PARTICULAR account of the MS. volume from which the following Treatises are taken, has been given by Dr. Tafel in his edition of the originals.* In executing the translation we have aimed to represent the author's meaning as closely as possible; but there are passages here and there where the sense is doubtful; and in these we have been literal, as the nearest approach to being faithful. The reader will occasionally find difficulties in his way; and he will kindly recollect, that he is reading a manuscript which there is reason to suppose was a first draft, and which would certainly not have been issued by Swedenborg in its present unfinished state. For this reason also the reader will be indulgent to the translator.†

Yet the work as it stands is a worthy integrant part of that extraordinary series of works which more than a century ago

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* Eman. Swedenborgii, Sacræ Regiæ Majestatis Regniq̄ue Sueciæ Collegii Metallici Assessoris, Regnum Animale Anatomice, Physice et Philosophice perlustratum. Cujus supplementum sive Partis Sextæ Sectio Secunda de Generatione, de partibus Genitalibus utriusque Sexus, et de Formatione Fœtus in Utero agit. E Chirographo ejus in Bibliotheca Regiæ Academiæ Holmiensis asservato, nunc primum edidit Dr. J. F. I. Tafel, Philosophiæ Professor et Regiæ Bibliothecæ Universitatis Tubingensis Præfectus.

Eman. Swedenborgii, Sacræ Regiæ Majestatis Regniq̄ue Sueciæ Collegii Metallici Assessoris, Regnum Animale Anatomice, Physice et Philosophice perlustratum. Cujus supplementum sive Partis Sextæ Sectio Prima de Periosteo et de Mammis agit. E Chirographo ejus in Bibliotheca Regiæ Academiæ Holmiensis asservato, nunc primum edidit Dr. J. F. I. Tafel,

† In the first instance we had intended to publish with this volume a copious Index like that in our Translation of *The Animal Kingdom*; but upon second consideration we found that the work was too fragmentary to warrant such an addition to the size and cost of the present volume.

appeared in Latin, and which within the last ten years has been coming forth in the English tongue. What its precise merits may be, we will not prejudge; *that* is a question which belongs to the future. We see in it great intuitions of order, with a most ingenious application to details: much that is as new to the human mind now, as when the manuscript was written. We see in it also a constant amalgam of physics and metaphysics, like what there is in the human body itself; but which we do not know where to find in any author but Swedenborg. And moreover we recognize in it an affinity to Man, an addiction to central truths and principles, which is too absent from the corresponding works of this age. Yet we own that it is worth but little as a handbook for the kind of information now sought in the medical schools.

In truth the work is non-medical: it is one of those productions, which must exist more and more in all departments, and which are designed to promote a non-professional, public, or universal view of the matters in hand. Science in its universals is no tradesman, and works not for the improvement of any calling; but solely because truth is good. Such science for the human body has been cultivated by the non-medical Swedenborg.

It is a delicate subject which the present treatise embraces, but it is one which cannot be unknown. When we are little boys and girls, our first queries about our *whence* are answered by the authoritative dogma of "the silver spade:" we were dug up with that implement. By degrees the fact comes forth. The public however remains for ages in the silver-spade condition of mind with regard to the science of the fact; and the doctors foster it by telling us that the whole subject is a medical property. Swedenborg wants to tell us on the other hand all about these mysteries; and we suppose the time has come when we may begin to know. There is nothing wrong in the knowing; and though the passions might be stimulated in the first moments by such information, yet in the second instance they will be calmed by it; and ceasing to be inflamed by the additional goad of curiosity and imagination, they will cool down under the hydropathic influences of science. Well stated knowledge did never yet contribute to human inflammation; and we much

question whether the whole theory of the silver spade be not a mistake; and whether children should not be told the truth from the first; that before desire and imagination are born, the young mind may receive in its cool innocency the future objects of powers and faculties which are to be subject afterwards to such strong excitements. Vegetable generation supplies a beautiful and most decorous set of analogies for instruction in animal and human. But we repeat, it will not be the great doctors as such, but the great educators, from whom this information suited to the public, and the children, can be obtained.

For the rest, the present treatise shines for us with the clear mild genius of Swedenborg. We have so often written our best about him, that we feel, were we to expatiate here, that we should be travelling upon the same lines, and weary the reader with our repetitions. It requires new voices from time to time to illustrate matters and men of world-wide importance. We are senile in the present service, and have already passed on to fields where we feel a little younger.

But with our last literary accents we would fain claim the attention of the new men of this age, to what there is in Swedenborg's scientific works, accordant with their own necessities and discoveries. In particular we suppose that there is no writer before or since who has treated as he has done, of the continuity of the body on the one hand; or of the permeation and penetration of vibrations and living influences through it, on the other. Let us take a common example. A man catches cold: straightway he feels stiffness and pains in every joint of his body: his whole head is sore; his nose runs with serous defluxion, &c., &c. Now, strange as it may appear, the present science does not present any physiological knowledge of what these pathological states may be. What is the condition of his periosteum, of the sheaths of all his stiff muscles, and of his creaking joints? How does it all happen? Neither science nor imagination knows. The feelings of the patient have no commerce with the skill of the doctor. This demonstrates at any rate that the science which lies at the basis of pathology is not yet opened. Pains, aches, swellings, and symptoms generally, glide along the body by terribly broad bridges of structure of which the anatomist wots not. Well then, there is

wanted somebody besides this prim anatomist, to unfold the case. Our Swedenborg, Licentiate of No College, is one of the men in whose works we have found a beginning of instruction on this subject. He has wonderfully indicated to us many of the great bridges and highways of vibrations and influences, and in so doing has thronged with living states and forms parts which were previously dispersed, lying in sand heaps of cell germs. To the new pathology, which chronicles the passage of states through Man, he is as yet the most important contributor from the physiological side.

It gives us pleasure to end these brief lines by recording publicly that the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, the body of which Linnæus and Berzelius were *alumni*, has lately paid a fitting tribute to the memory of Swedenborg. We excerpt the following from the official account of their last annual festival.

“1852. The Academy has this year caused the annual medal to be struck to the memory of the celebrated Swedenborg. It represents Swedenborg’s image on the obverse: over it his name: under it *Nat. 1688, Den. 1772*. On the reverse: a man in a dress reaching to the feet, with eyes unbandaged, standing before the temple of Isis, at whose base the goddess is seen. Above it: *TANTOQUE EXSULTAT ALUMNO*; beneath: *MIRO NATURÆ INVESTIGATORI SOCIO QUOND. ÆSTIMATISS. ACAD. REG. SCIENT. SVEC. MDCCCLII.*” The eulogium on Swedenborg was delivered by the President of the Academy, General Akrell. It is to the liberality of this same Academy, who lent us the original manuscript, that the reader is indebted for the possession of this and many other of Swedenborg’s works. Justice compels us to add that a munificent Englishman, Joseph Senior, Esq., of Dalton, impressed with the value of these works, has defrayed the entire cost of the present translation.

London, May 16, 1852.

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