

S&CB Editorial

This issue of *Science & Christian Belief* contains two articles describing historical perspectives on the interaction between science and faith, while a third looks forward to questions of cosmology and eschatology. There is also an ongoing debate on the place of miracles today in which Christians seek to be faithful to scripture, as well as acknowledging differences in their daily experiences and expectations. We welcome such honest and open dialogue, so long as it is conducted in a spirit of grace, honesty, openness and mutual respect. It is by working through issues together, rather than hiding our differences, that the Spirit leads us into truth. We anticipate responses to other recent articles in forthcoming issues of S&CB.

The committee and trustees of *Christians in Science* would welcome your views on the journal, as they meet for an away day in May. What type(s) of articles are you most likely to read; is it too academic; how do we encourage more (younger) people to submit articles; what about the balance between contemporary scientific discoveries and applications, and historical/theological/philosophical reflections; how helpful are the book reviews? Please send any comments to the Editor.

The UN has proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of the Periodic Table, as it marks the 150th anniversary of Mendeleev's ordering of the elements in 1869. Maybe this reflects the wisdom of Proverbs 25:2 "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search things out." He succeeded in this endeavour, while earlier attempts at ordering the elements had only partial success, by not being deterred by gaps, and he left spaces for elements that were yet to be discovered such as gallium, scandium, germanium and (much later) technetium. Mendeleev was influenced by his devout mother (he was one of 17 children!) who instructed him to "patiently search divine and scientific truth". Although he did not write much on faith, there is no evidence that he regarded religion and science as incompatible, though he once asserted that 'science marks the power and the glory of our time and is the basis of all accomplishments of universal value.' His son would later say that he departed from the Church and embraced a form of "romanticised deism", in which his opposition to traditional Orthodoxy was not due to either atheism or a scientific materialism. I wonder if there is some analogy between the ordering of the chemical elements and Adam's naming of the animals in Genesis 2; a process that is fundamental to the scientist's desire to name, order and classify.

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