

Together with fellow-workers, I had also arranged a discussion evening on questions of natural science as an extension of the practical work. A small circle of us met every week in the old "Baubureau", as the room was called, usually in the presence of Rudolf Steiner himself, who helped us by answering our questions. We sat in a semi-circle round a blackboard on the wall, presented our problems, difficulties, experiences and ideas, and in these free and spontaneous conversations received from him corrections and impulses for our further work.

In this primitive little wooden room, many important results of spiritual investigation were communicated by Dr. Steiner during our lively discussions. The principles of a science of formative forces, systematic experiments in the domains of chemistry, physics, geology and botany, and also general problems of cosmogony - all these subjects were discussed and clarified. To give a concrete example on one occasion we came to speak of the very first manifestation of forms of movement in the cosmos, and in this connection I asked Rudolf Steiner how the original lemniscate-movement, so often referred to by him, was to be explained. Thereupon he spoke in a most graphic way about the primal beginnings of the cosmos, the so-called "Saturn condition", and described how the first movement in the cosmos arose from the rotatory balancing of huge bodies of coldness and heat, how the whole cosmic system then began to move around yet another axis and how the lemniscate movement developed through the combination of such movements of the cosmic system, both inwardly and around different axes. These expositions were accompanied by lively gestures of the hands or sketches on the blackboard, and helped us to gain gradually deeper insight into the fundamental laws of cosmic evolution.

Those Tuesday evenings, with their vigorous and fertile conversations, remain unforgettable, and have been rich endowments for our paths of life and for practical activities in the laboratory and in agriculture. In spite of his overwhelming burden of work, Rudolf Steiner devoted a great deal of time to me; with every readiness to help he indicated literature for preliminary study, made suggestions about the ordering and grouping of the material, gave me courage, energy and substance for the writing of my projected book. When fear of being swamped by the sheer abundance of the material, and by one's own inadequacy to master and arrange it properly, had made one now and then despondent, a few words from Rudolf Steiner in conversation could restore one's vigour, power of concentration and self-confidence for months, and give a right direction to the work.