

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Steering Committee

The third meeting was held at 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1, on Thursday 26th July 1960 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Professor J.A.V. Butler (Chairman)
Professor D.D. Eley
Professor A.F. Huxley
Dr. J.W.S. Pringle
Professor J.T. Randall
Professor F.J.W. Roughton
Sir Gordon Sutherland
Dr. P.M.B. Walker
Dr. J.C. Kendrew (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor R.D. Preston and Dr. L.H. Gray.

1. The Secretary reported that letters had been received from the Secretary of the Biochemical Society suggesting the possibility that joint meetings of the two societies might be held. The Biochemical Society had also offered to circulate notices of meetings of the Biophysical Society to its members. The Secretary was instructed to write the the Secretary of the Biochemical Society expressing the thanks of the Committee for these suggestions.
2. The Secretary reported that Professor Pantin and Professor Swan no longer wished to serve on the committee and at their suggestion Dr. J.W.S. Pringle and Dr. P.M.B. Walker were accepted in their places.
3. Christmas meeting of the society. Professor Randall reported on the arrangements proposed by his subcommittee for the first meeting of the society at King's College, London in December, 1960.
 - (a) Domestic. The dates proposed (and approved by the committee) were 19th and 20th December 1960. Lecture room, committee room and common room accommodation would be available. Living accommodation for 80 had already been reserved at the King's College hall in Denmark Hill and it was probable that further accommodation could be found in addition.

It was resolved

- (i) that abstracts of papers to be presented at the conference should be circulated in advance to all prospective members of the Society who have paid the first annual subscription.

- (ii) that a conference dinner should be held on the evening of 19th December,
 - (iii) that no charge for the conference should be made to prospective members, but that non-members should be charged a conference fee of £1 0s. 0d. (It was estimated that the cost of the conference per head would be about 15s. 0d.)
 - (iv) that space would be provided for demonstrations of apparatus, requests for space to be made to Dr. H.S. Silvester not later than mid-November. If possible time would be reserved for exhibitors to give brief talks on their exhibits.
- (b) Scientific programme. The scientific programme of the meeting would be as follows:-
- (i) The first morning session would consist of a symposium on comparative studies of muscle contraction. This symposium would last from 9.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.; Professor A.V. Hill would be asked to introduce the symposium briefly; and there would be four or five papers of which two or three would be delivered by members of the Department of Physics at King's College.
 - (ii) The second morning session would be occupied by two short symposia on subjects to be chosen by Professor Randall together with the subcommittee, possibly from proffered papers.
 - (iii) The afternoon sessions would consist of submitted papers of 15 minutes including discussion.

Professor Randall was asked by the committee to complete the detailed arrangements for the meeting on the lines indicated above.

4. Announcement of the formation of the society. The Secretary was asked to arrange for a brief announcement of the formation of the society to be published by Nature, the Biochemical Society and the Physiological Society. A second and more detailed announcement about the society and about the arrangements for the December meeting would be published later. The Secretary was instructed to prepare a draft of the second announcement to be considered at the next meeting of the committee.

5. Rules of the Society. The draft prepared by the Secretary ^(appended) was discussed and a number of alterations were suggested. The Secretary was instructed to prepare a revised draft for the next meeting of the committee.

6. Finance and subscription.
 - (a) The Chairman reported that the Faraday Society had agreed to make a gift of £1,000 to the new society. The Secretary was instructed to send a letter of thanks to the Secretary of the Faraday Society.
 - (b) It was resolved that in the first instance the annual subscription would be £2 Os. Od.
7. Treasurer. Dr. P.M.B. Walker was elected treasurer of the Steering Committee.
8. Proposals for informal meetings. The Chairman reported that he had received proposals for informal meetings to be sponsored by the society, one on the physical chemistry of phosphatides, the other on radiation damage to biological materials. Professor Eley was asked to explore the first suggestion in more detail and to report to the next meeting of the committee. Professor Butler and Dr. Gray were asked to report similarly about the second suggestion.
9. Report on the Amsterdam Biophysics Meeting. Sir Gordon Sutherland reported that this meeting had decided to organize an international biophysics conference in Stockholm between 31st July and 4th August 1961, the organizing committee being under the chairmanship of Professor Engström.
10. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday 27th September at 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1.

John Butler

Proposed rules of the British Biophysical Society

Some draft rules are set out below to test the opinions of the Committee on matters of principle. Rules dealing with procedure have been omitted for the present.

The Committee may wish to consider whether the rules should provide for the election of Honorary Members, or for a special category of Members not resident in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

Members

1. Only persons who are, or have been, engaged in research or teaching connected with Biophysics and related subjects shall be eligible for election as Members.
2. Each member shall pay an annual subscription of _____, or at such other rate as shall from time to time be determined by the Members at a general Meeting. The Subscription is payable in advance, and becomes due on the 1st January. In the case of an elected Member the first payment shall be made in and for the year of election.

Organisation

3. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee of members, consisting of the Officers and nine other Members, to be referred to as Ordinary Members of the Committee.
4. The Officers shall be an Honorary Treasurer and two Honorary Secretaries, of whom the first shall deal with scientific meetings and the second with other affairs of the Society. The Officers shall be nominated by the Committee and submitted for election at the Annual General Meeting each year, subject to the proviso that no Officer shall be eligible to continue in the same office for more than five consecutive years.
5. No Ordinary Member of the Committee shall be eligible to serve for more than three consecutive years, a rotation being arranged so that three Ordinary Members normally retire each year. Nominations to vacancies may be made by the Committee or by not less than five Members, for election at the Annual General Meeting.
6. The Committee shall elect one of its members to act as chairman at its meetings, and the chairman may act for a period not greater than two years.

Meetings

7. At the General Meetings of the Society one of the Members present shall be elected to act as Chairman of that Meeting; but at each Scientific Meeting the head of the Laboratory (or some person deputed by him) acting as host to the Meeting shall act as Chairman.