

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 11th meeting of the Steering Committee

The 11th meeting was held in the rooms of the Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1. on Wednesday, 4th October, 1961 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: Professor J.A.V. Butler (Chairman)
Dr. L. H. Gray
Professor A. F. Huxley
Professor J.T. Randall
Professor F.J.W. Roughton
Dr. P.M.B. Walker (Treasurer)
Dr. J.C. Kendrew (Secretary)
Dr. H. Gutfreund (by invitation)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor D. D. Eley, Professor R. D. Preston, Professor J. W. S. Pringle and Sir Gordon Sutherland.

1. Report on the Nottingham meeting, 26th and 27th July, 1961

Written reports on the meeting were received from Professor Preston and Professor Eley. The number registered was forty members and nineteen non-members. Including members of the departments of Nottingham University the maximum attendance at any time was about eighty five to ninety. It is probable that this meeting was completely self supporting financially. The symposia were very successful, but it was only found possible to arrange one session of nine contributed papers, six of which had been personally solicited by Professor Eley.

It was suggested by Professor Eley that in future meetings twenty minutes should be allowed for contributed papers, that is to say fifteen minutes plus five minutes discussion. The Committee agreed that this should be done whenever time permitted.

At a General Meeting of the Society a discussion of the proposed rules was introduced by Dr. P. M. B. Walker and a discussion on the proposals for an International Organization on Biophysics by Sir Gordon Sutherland. This meeting was only attended by seven or eight members, apart from members of the Committee. Few comments of substance were made on the draft rules, and the meeting agreed that the Society should adhere to an International Organization if one were founded at Stockholm.

2. Future meetings

a. Meeting at the Royal Institution, 12th and 13th December 1961.

Dr. Kendrew and Dr. Gutfreund described to the Committee their proposals for the two symposia to be held at this meeting. One symposium would be on the Structure of Globular Proteins, and would be under the chairmanship of Sir Lawrence Bragg; the other would deal with the Function of Proteins and would be under the chairmanship of Professor Neuberger. It was agreed that Sir Lawrence Bragg should be asked to act as President of the Meeting. It was proposed to invite Professor Koshland from America and Dr. Drenth from

Holland. It was understood that Professor Koshland would be able to arrange his own finances across the Atlantic if need be, but the Secretary was asked to enquire from the Wellcome Trust whether there was any possibility of support from this source, before Professor Koshland was asked to make his own arrangements. It was also agreed that Dr. Drenth's travel expenses from Holland should be paid from the funds of the Society notwithstanding the previous ruling of the Committee.

With regard to domestic arrangements it was reported that Dr. David Green had made a provisional plan for a dinner at the Strand Palace Hotel. Professor Randall suggested that it might be possible to hold the dinner at King's College as in December 1960, and the Committee agreed that this would be greatly preferable if it could be arranged. The Committee ruled that coffee breaks should be dispensed with if coffee could not be provided within the walls of the Royal Institution.

b. Edinburgh meeting, 11th to 13th April 1962

Dr. Walker reported that the local committee proposed to arrange three symposia, one (to be arranged by Dr. Mitchell) on Supramolecular Structure in relation to Biological Specificity and Function, a second (arranged by Professor Dainty) entitled Water Transfer from the point of view of Irreversible Thermodynamics, and a third (to be arranged by Dr. Walker) on Synthetic Processes in Single Cells. These proposals were endorsed by the Committee, and it was agreed that the meeting should last three days, with a free half day on the second day if possible. It was further agreed that Professor M. M. Swann should be asked to act as President of the Meeting.

c. Meeting on Membrane Phenomena

Professor Butler, Professor Roughton and Professor Huxley described their proposals for a one-day meeting on this topic to be held on the 9th March, in conjunction with the Biochemical Society's meeting on the 8th March on a similar subject. The Committee felt that there might be some objections to holding this meeting so close to the Edinburgh meeting, at which related topics would be discussed. A sub-committee consisting of Professor Eley, Professor Butler, Professor Huxley and Dr. R. D. Keynes were instructed to explore the proposal further and to report to the Committee.

3. International Organization of Biophysics

Professor Butler reported on the Stockholm meeting and stated that it had been decided to set up an International Organization of Biophysics. A set of statutes had been agreed (copy appended), incorporating the changes suggested by the Steering Committee of the British Biophysical Society. Officers of the International Organization had been elected (see list appended). The Steering Committee agreed that it would welcome the establishment by the Royal Society of a National Committee on Biophysics, for the purpose of adhering to the International Organization.

4. Rules of the Society

The following procedure for ratifying the rules of the Society and for

electing the Committee was agreed:

1. The Steering Committee would consider its own nominations for the Committee and Officers at its next meeting to be held in the middle of October.
2. These nominations would be notified to the members, who would be asked to submit any further nominations well in advance of the December meeting.
3. The rules of the Society would be ratified on the first day of the December meeting.
4. If necessary, a ballot would be held on the second day of the December meeting. Ballot papers would be circulated to the members in advance, so that those not attending this meeting could submit their ballot papers by post.

Members of the Committee agreed to bring suggestions for nominations to the next meeting, and to notify the Secretary if they themselves did not wish to be nominated.

5. Applications for Membership

The Treasurer reported that the following had applied for membership:

Dr. Helen Scouloudi (Royal Institution, London)

Dr. G. H. Smith (Department of Biochemistry, University of Cambridge).

These applications were accepted.

6. Date of next meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held about 17th to 19th October, 1961.

