

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of thirteenth Meeting of the Committee

The thirteenth meeting took place on Thursday, the 11th February, 1965 at 2.30 p.m. at the Faraday Society, 6 Grays Inn Square, W.C.1.

Present:

- Professor K. H. F. Wilkins
- Professor D. D. Eley
- Dr. W. B. Gretzer
- Dr. J. B. Fineman
- Dr. N. Symons
- Dr. A. Peacocke (Meetings Secretary)
- Dr. A. C. T. North (Treasurer)
- Professor A. E. Burge (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Professor J. Dainty.

65/1 Dr. J. C. Kendrew had intimated that he must resign from Chairman because of the pressure of other commitments. Professor K. H. F. Wilkins was unanimously elected to succeed Dr. Kendrew.

65/2 Correspondence

(a) It was decided that Professor A. E. Burge should act for the Society in relation to the requirements of the Central Office of Information.

(b) Co-ordinating body in the fields of Medical and Biological Engineering. It was felt that the Society's interests were not sufficiently inclined towards these fields for the Society to want to be represented on the co-ordinating body; the Society would ask to be informed of any development in which it might be interested.

65/3 Symposium on 'Morphogenesis and Differentiation in relation to cellular fine structure' Imperial College 8th and 9th January, 1965.

Professor Burge reported that this meeting had not been entirely successful. The topic of the meeting had not developed as rapidly as expected when it had been suggested two years before. The lunch arrangements at Imperial College were poor and there had been no local interest in the meeting. It was decided that no further meetings would be held at Imperial College. It was unanimously felt that meetings on Saturdays were to be avoided in future. About 90 people had attended on the first day and 70 on the second.

65/4 Matters raised at the A.G.M. 9th January, 1965

- (a) The membership gave unanimous approval to the suggestion that Professor J. D. Bernal, F.R.S. should be made an Honorary Member. A letter following the A.G.M. had been sent to Professor Bernal inviting him to accept his membership. This he has done in a most cordial letter.
- (b) A number of members asked that abstracts for both the main Society meetings and the Physical Biochemistry Group meetings should always be made available, the latter could be circulated after the meetings. The Secretary had agreed that every effort would be made to do this.
- (c) Dr. Kendrew explained why abstracts of the Society's meetings could not be published in J.Mol.Biol.
- (d) The thanks of the Society were offered to Dr. P. H. B. Walker, who retired after five years, from his position as Treasurer.

65/5 Future Meetings

(a) Haemoglobin and Myoglobin, Cambridge, 8th and 9th April, 1965

Dr. Peacocke reported that a provisional programme had now been drawn up and the first notice of the meeting would be circulated shortly. Dr. North pointed out that Dr. Perutz was not able to fulfil his original intention of providing funds for travel to the meeting. As a result, of the estimated £619 required for the meeting, £290 was still required. It was thought that this was not an appropriate occasion to ask the Wellcome Trust to assist the Society. Dr. North was asked to write to Dr. Perutz and ask if some of the invited speakers could find their own travel funds. Precedents for this were cited by several members of the Committee. It was suggested that non-members of the Biophysical and Biochemical Societies should pay a £1 registration fee. Dr. Peacocke was to write to Dr. Kernohan about this.

(b) Conformation of biological macromolecules, Queen Elizabeth College, London, December 20, 21, 22, 1965

- (i) Protein structure as determined by amino-acid sequence and other factors; nucleic acid and helical structure.
- (ii) Application of low-angle X-ray and electron diffraction.

It was thought that (i) should occupy the first day and (ii) the second and third days. Professor Wilkins is organising (i) and was to

ask Dr. Kendrew to be co-organiser especially on the protein side. Professor Burge is organising (ii). It is hoped that a round-table discussion on quaternary structure may be held during the first evening - either before or after the dinner.

Suggested speakers for (i) include Kendrew, Scheraga, Liquori, Ramachandran, Wilkins, Phillips, Sinagra. Round-table speakers suggested include Zimm, Perutz and Crick. For (ii) tentative agreement to speak has been given by Finem, Luzzati, U. Elliott and Hillman, Woods and Burge. Other possibilities include Zimm (introductory address), Kratky, McCall, Holmes, Wilson, A. Elliott.

It was decided to ask non-members to pay £1 registration fee and the suggestion was made that the Treasurer should be on hand at the meeting to collect the fees.

The above titles and arrangements were arrived at after some discussion about means to attract people with a wide spectrum of interests to the meeting.

(c) 'Excitable Tissues', Oxford, 14th, 15th April, 1966

No report was available.

(d) 'The origin of life', April 1966 London

The Meetings Secretary was asked to write to Dr. S. Brenner to ask him to provide a provisional programme.

(e) 'Resonance Techniques in Biophysics', April, 1967, Nottingham

Professor Eloy was to look into this possibility.

(f) 'Methods in Macromolecular structure determination', Summer, 1967, Oxford

Dr. Peacocke was to look into this possibility.

(g) Professor Wilkins suggested that 'Molecular Biology of Memory' should be kept in mind for a meeting but the time was far from opportune yet.

Dr. Peacocke suggested that advertisements might be again inserted in the Proc. Faraday Soc. This was agreed to.

65/7 Summer School Sub-Committee

Professor Wilkins had asked Sir Harold Himsworth about K.R.C. support but none was forthcoming. The possibility of making the School self-supporting was discussed as was the possibility of administrative assistance from University Extra-Mural Departments such as occurs in connection with Professor Coulson's School on Quantum Mechanics. Dr. Peacocke was to look into this.

65/8 I.Q.P.A.B. Meeting, Naples, 1965.

A letter from Professor Butler had been received asking for financial support to supplement a travel grant set aside by the Royal Society. After some discussion it was decided not to subscribe to this travel fund.

65/9 Physical Biochemistry Group Report

Dr Peacocke reported that the meeting on the 16th January on 'Electronic states of Biological Macromolecules' had been most successful. About 50 people had attended. Future meetings were to be:-

- (i) 'Physico-Chemical Separation Methods', Cambridge, 7th April, 1965 (organiser: Dr. P. Johnson).
- (ii) 'Hazards, 'nonallic', Choice of method in the determination of molecular weights of biological macromolecules', M.S.E. Porton, May 26th (organiser, Dr. A. Wallace).
- (iii) 'Light scattering', School of Pharmacy, London. September, 1965. (organiser Professor Saunders).

65/10 Publications

- (i) Dr. Peacocke and Dr. North were to look into the possibility of abstracts being printed in future. One suggestion was that abstracts could be precirculated as now and then annually, a collected set of abstracts could be published for reference purposes with volume number etc. A photographic process as used to produce 'Tetrahedron' may be inexpensive.
- (ii) Professor Wilkins agreed to ask Dr. Gratzer (who had left the meeting) to prepare some further schemes for the possible annual review volumes (Minute 61/21)
- (iii) Dr. Peacocke thought the Society might sponsor monographs in particular areas from time to time. He was to provide some examples.

65/11 New members of the Society were admitted and resignations noted.

65/12 It was thought that influential guests might be invited to the dinners of the Society given in connection with meetings.

65/13 The next meeting of the Committee is to be at the Faraday Society, 6 Grays Inn Square, W.C.1. at 2.30 p.m. on the 27th May, 1965.