

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Committee took place at 2.30 p.m., on Wednesday, February 4th, 1970 at University College, Gower Street, W.C.1.

Present:

- Dr. E.M. Bradbury (Meetings Secretary)
- Dr. P. Fatt
- Dr. J.B. Finean (Secretary)
- Professor G.A. Gilbert
- Dr. A.C.T. North
- Dr. K.D. Parker
- Dr. A.R. Peacocke (by special invitation)
- Professor R.H. Pritchard
- Professor J.H. Subak-Sharpe
- Dr. M.P. Tombs (Treasurer)

Apologies were received from Dr. D.M. Blow

70/1 Dr. Finean proposed that Dr. A.C.T. North should be Chairman of the Committee for 1970. This was agreed unanimously and Dr. North took the chair.

70/2 Co-option of new Committee Members

The Secretary reported that the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society, originally arranged for December, 1969, had failed to attract a quorum (25 members) and new elections to the Committee had not taken place. The present Officers of the Society had been proposed for re-election and the Rules of the Society allowed them to continue in office. Three vacancies on the Committee had been created by the automatic retirement of Professor Burge, Kekwick and Pollock, and the Rules gave the Committee power to co-opt new members to fill such vacancies until the next A.G.M. The Secretary therefore proposed, and it was unanimously agreed, that Professor G.A. Gilbert, Dr. K.D. Parker and Professor J.H. Subak-Sharpe should be co-opted to the Committee to fill the three vacancies.

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Rules of the Society did not give the Committee any additional powers of co-option such as had been assumed in asking Dr. Peacocke, on his retirement as Secretary, to continue on the Committee for a further year to act as Chairman. The Committee felt that additional limited powers of co-option for special purposes would be very useful. As the Society's Accountants had advised on the wording of the Rules so as to satisfy the Inland Revenue, the Treasurer undertook to seek their advice on an alteration to Rule 12, relating to co-option to be proposed to the December, 1970, Annual General Meeting.

Any Prof?

70/3 The Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

70/4 Matters arising from the Minutes not separately listed in the Agenda:

United Kingdom Crystallographic Council (69/18, 69/24)

In a letter to the Secretary, Dr. Blow had commented on two aspects of the proposed activities of UKCC. The first aim was to circulate information on plans for crystallographic meetings, and this the Society should welcome. The second was the possibility of circulating a news-letter to individuals in the affiliated societies. This, Dr. Blow sought leave to oppose on the grounds of difficulty of maintaining a mailing list, and of cost. Without the news-letter our subscription to UKCC (based on membership) should be less than £20. The Committee agreed to support Dr. Blow's suggestions.

Computer Group (69/18, 69/24)

Dr. North reported that the group would now be run by a Secretary and Treasurer, one of whom would be from the Biophysical Society, and one from the Biochemical Society. This would ensure a closer cooperation between the two societies in arranging meetings. Dr. Watson Fuller had been elected Secretary of the Group.

Representation on British National Committees (69/25)

The Secretary reported that Professor Subak-Sharpe was a member of the National Committee for Biophysics as a representative of the Genetical Society.

70/5 Revised arrangements for 9th Annual General Meeting

It was agreed that the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Society should now be arranged for March 25th at the University of Sussex as part of the Spring Meeting of the Society.

70/6 Reports on Scientific Meetings

December 17 & 18, 1969, at Imperial College. About 200 people attended. The Meeting was very well run and scientifically very successful, but the Treasurer estimated that the financial deficit would be of the order of £350. It was agreed that the cheques of a few people who had been unable to attend should be returned to them. The attendance of the Computer Group Meeting on December 17th, 1969 was about 70, and at the Physical Biochemistry Group Meeting on January 8th, 1970, it was 60/70.

report under 4
Nominal
meeting

Review

Anything
further

70/7 Future Meetings

Main Meetings

March 24 & 25 at University of Sussex. "The Molecular Basis of Recombination." The Meetings Secretary reported that the programme of the meeting was now ready and that a space for the AGM had been included. Professor Symonds had not requested Abstracts and was reluctant to do so. It was pointed out that it was the stated policy of the Society to provide such abstracts, and the Meetings Secretary was asked to make this clear to the Organiser. The Secretary also reported that Professor Symonds had found it necessary to visit France and Holland to discuss the programme with some of his principal speakers, and had asked if the Society would cover some of the expenses incurred. The Committee were very reluctant to allow such a precedent to be established and asked the Treasurer to urge Professor Symonds to cover his expenses from other sources. If no other source could be found the Treasurer was authorised to cover the air fare.

The Committee agreed that there should be no registration fee for Members at this meeting and that the fee for non-members should be £1.

December 14 & 15, 1970, at Institute of Electrical Engineers - London. "Interactions of Proteins and Nucleic Acids." It was suggested that a registration fee of £2 or £3 would be appropriate for this meeting. The Meetings Secretary agreed to approach the Royal Society and the Wellcome Trust for grants to cover travel expenses of speakers.

April 6 & 7, 1971, at University of Leeds. "Fibrous Proteins." Preliminary bookings had been made and a programme was being discussed.

Members of the Committee were asked to think of new topics for meetings for discussion at the next Committee Meeting.

70/8 Administration

The Secretary and Treasurer reported that they had discussed with Mr. Copp, of the Institute of Biology, some of the difficulties that they had experienced during the first year of administration of the Society, through the Institute of Biology. Many administrative details had been clarified and a new arrangement for charging on an hourly basis had been agreed.

The Treasurer reported that the membership list had been brought

up-to-date, and it was suggested that as the list had been issued only in January, 1968, he should consider distributing a list of amendments.

The Treasurer also reported that he had just paid the expenses of Dr. Highton from Edinburgh to attend as our representative at a Meeting of the British Joint Committee for Electron Microscopy. He pointed out that we now had representatives on many joint committees and that the cost of such representation was substantial.

70/9 Reports from IUPAB

The Secretary reported that at the Fourth General Assembly of IUPAB, held at MIT in September, 1969, the Statutes had been amended so as to enable any delegates, whether or not present in person, to be elected to the Council.

Among members of the British Biophysical Society who had become Officers or Members of IUPAB Commissions, were:

Dr. J. Kendrew - President

Dr. R. Keynes - Member of the Council

Drs. Haydon, Huxley and Keynes - Commission on Cell Membranes

Dr. Watson Fuller - Commission on Education

Drs. Klug and Phillips - Commission on Macromolecular Biophysics

Dr. Butler - Commission on Subcellular Biophysics

The 1972 Congress will be held in, or near Moscow.

70/10 Correspondence

The Secretary reported that he had been consulted by two research workers from Loughborough University who were making a study of the history of development of interdisciplinary subjects, one of which was biophysics. Permission was granted to make available for this study, a copy of the Minutes of the 1st Committee^{Meeting} of the Society which gave an account of its origins.

A letter had also been received from the Secretary of the Molecular Enzymology Group of the Biochemical Society, inviting increased participation by members of the British Biophysical Society. The Meetings Secretary agreed to include details of the group meetings in the Meetings list of the Society.

70/11 It was agreed to hold the next Committee Meeting at the Institute of Biology, at 2.30 p.m., on Wednesday, May 20th, 1970.