

British Biophysical Society

The thirtieth meeting of the Committee took place at 2.30.p.m. on Wednesday, May 20th, 1970 at the Institute of Biology, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7.

Present: Dr. E.M. Bradbury (Meetings Secretary)
Dr. J.B. Finean (Secretary)
Dr. A.C.T. North (Chairman)
Dr. K.D. Parker
Dr. E.C. Richards
Professor J.H. Subak-Sharpe
Dr. M.P. Tombs (Treasurer)

Apologies were received from Professor Gilbert, Dr. Fatt and Professor Pritchard.

70/12 The minutes of the 29th meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

70/13 Matters arising from the Minutes not separately listed in the Agenda:
Co-option of new Committee members (70/2)

The Treasurer reported that he had sent a suggested amendment to the Rules of the Society to the Society's Accountants for their comments. The amendment read "In addition, not more than three members of the Society may be co-opted as members of the Committee to serve until the next Annual General Meeting". The Accountants had replied that they were sure that the Inland Revenue would have no objection to such an amendment. The Committee therefore agreed to propose this amendment at the next Annual General Meeting. The Secretary also undertook to give preliminary notice of this intention in the next circulation to members.

Revised arrangements for the 9th Annual General Meeting (70/5)

In view of the fact that the Easter Meeting at the University of Sussex had also failed to attract a quorum of members for an AGM, the Committee decided to combine 9th & 10th Annual General Meetings to take place in London in December, 1970.

70/14 Reports from representatives on joint committees

Computer group - a meeting had been arranged for September at Norwich.

Biological Council - in addition to discussions on the European Cell Biology Organisation and the Harden Conferences (see minutes 70/18 & 70/19 there was also further information on the Symposium on the "Influence of Drugs on Cellular Control Mechanisms" to be held at the Middlesex Hospital on 29-30 March, 1971.

attended the meeting on December 4, 1969. The main business was concerned with the Vth European Regional Congress of Electron Microscopy to be held at Manchester in September, 1970.

70/15 Reports on Scientific Meetings

Easter meeting - University of Sussex. Attendance was about 80 but included few members of the Society. It was a good meeting scientifically and the facilities were good. Abstracts had eventually been obtained (see minute 70/7). Professor Symonds had been unable to cover an air fare connected with his visit to the continent to arrange the programme and this would now be reimbursed by the Society as previously authorised (minute 70/7).

Physical Biochemistry Group Meeting - April 14th, London. Attendance was 100 to 120. In connection with this meeting, one speaker, an American visiting Cambridge, had expected to receive his expenses. Although it was not the policy of the Society to cover speakers' expenses at one-day sub-group meetings, the Treasurer was authorised to ensure that this particular request was met.

70/16 Future Meetings

December meeting, 1970 - grants of £350 from the Wellcome Trust and £200 from The Royal Society towards travel expenses. CIBA Foundation was making eight rooms available for speakers from abroad. Estimated attendance - about 350. Preliminary list of speakers totalled 20, 5 Americans, 4 French, 2 Germans and 9 U.K. The Committee felt that this was too many for a two-day meeting and asked that the list be reduced either by reducing the number of topics or by having fewer speakers for each topic. The Meetings Secretary undertook to discuss these points with Dr. Fuller.

Spring meeting, 1971 - discussions of programme continuing at Leeds: no additional information.

December, 1971 - "Advances in techniques of separation of biological materials" suggested as the topic. Meetings Secretary to consult Professor P. Alexander of Chester Beatty about Organisation.

Spring, 1972 - Metalloproteins - Oxford. Dr. Williams to be consulted.

Further suggestions - Plasma proteins, Advanced electron microscopy.

Professor Subak-Sharpe reported that he had obtained further information from the group of London theatres that were offering accommodation for conferences and found that the charges were very high.

Dr. Richards reported that he had looked at the new lecture theatre set up by the Chemical Society in Saville Row. It held 250, was very well equipped and very comfortable and the cost was £25. per day. At present there were no facilities for refreshments but these may subsequently be added.

The Secretary reported that he had received via the Chairman of the British National Committee for Biophysics preliminary information on a European Congress of Biophysics to be held at Baden, near Vienna on September 15th to 18th, 1971. It was proposed to establish a European Federation of Biophysical Societies analogous to the Federation of European Biochemical Societies and National Societies are invited to nominate 2 or 3 official representatives to attend a preliminary meeting on September 13th, 1971. The Secretary had written to the organising committee of the congress welcoming the initiative that had been taken and asking for circulars that could be distributed to members of the Society as early as possible. The Committee had no further topics to add to those included in the preliminary circular and deferred nomination of representatives to a later Committee Meeting.

70/18 The Secretary reported the establishment of the European Cell Biology organisation (ECBO) on the initiative of the President of the International Society for Cell Biology. Its aims appeared to be analogous to those of EMBO.

70/19 Harden Conference Planning Committee

The Biochemical Society had agreed to set up a joint committee with the Biological Council for the purpose of proposing topics and chairmen for the Harden Conferences. At a preliminary meeting the Biological Council had been represented by nominees of the British Society for Cell Biology, the Genetical Society, the British Society for Immunology and the Society for General Microbiology and Dr. Nathias of the Biochemical Society had remarked that in view of the biological bias of these representatives the Biochemical Society would need to nominate several members in order to adequately represent the physical aspects of biological sciences. The Secretary had been prompted by this to suggest that the British Biophysical Society might also nominate a representative to this planning committee and this had been accepted by the Biological Council.

It was agreed that the Meetings Secretary, Dr. Bradbury, should be nominated as the Society's representative on this committee.

Simon attended 1972 neurobiology developmental biology

70/20 Training and careers in biophysics

The Society continued to receive requests for information. It was suggested that the Secretary might consult Professor Burge with a view to producing a leaflet containing such information.

70/21 Availability of Membership list to publishers etc.

The Committee reaffirmed its policy of not making the Membership list available for publicity purposes.

70/22 It was agreed to hold the next Committee Meeting at the Institute of Biology at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14th, 1970.