

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 32nd Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 27th January 1971 at the Institute of Biology.

Present:

Dr E.M. Bradbury (Secretary)

Dr J.M. Creeth

Dr P. Fatt

Dr W. Fuller (Meetings Secretary)

Professor G.A. Gilbert

Dr A.C.T. North (Acting Chairman)

Dr K.D. Parker

Dr E.G. Richards

Dr M.P. Tombs (Treasurer)

Apologies were received from Professor P.M.D. Walker.

Dr A.C.T. North was invited to be Chairman for the Meeting.

71/1 Dr A.C.T. North proposed and it was agreed that Dr J.D. Finean should be a co-opted member of the Committee. Dr J.D. Finean was elected unanimously as Chairman of the Society.

71/2 The minutes of the 31st meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Acting Chairman

71/3 Matters arising from the minutes and not listed separately in the agenda.

Training and Careers in Biophysics (70/22, 70/24)

About 20 replies were received from members of the Society in response to an appeal for information on Biophysics taught in Universities. It was agreed that the table drawn up from these replies should be circulated firstly to members of the Committee for addition and comments. The modified table should then be distributed to members of the Society for their comments and additions. On completion the table should be kept up to date by the Secretary and sent out on request.

It was decided that the members of the Society should also be asked if they would support a $\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 day discussion meeting on Teaching and Careers in Biophysics.

Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on December 15th 1970

- i. Dr R.S. Snart (Sheffield) suggested that consideration should be given by the Committee to the reduction of the number of members required to support nominees to the Committee.
- ii. The Committee has taken note of the point made at the A.G.M. that topics for meetings were not representative of the interests of members of the Society.

71/4 Reports from Representatives on Joint Committees

1. Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Committee is to be held on Thursday 11th February 1971 and will be attended by the Secretary.

2. British National Committee for Biochemistry

Professor G.A. Gilbert discussed a report by Professors P.N. Campbell and T.W. Goodwin on the 8th International Congress of Biochemistry held in Switzerland from 3rd - 9th September 1970. Two points were made; firstly, that too little time was allowed for discussion at this congress; secondly, that by holding the Congress in three centres the total attendance is broken down into groups of 1,000 - 1,500 and this allows the benefit of more informal contact. It was felt, however, that the three centres Interlaken, Lucerne and Montreux were too far apart and did not permit easy travel between the centres. The idea of holding the Congress in several centres was thought to be good providing the centres were not too far apart.

The 9th International Congress of Biochemistry will be held in Stockholm in early July 1973.

3. British National Committee for Biophysics

From the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17th November 1970 it was noted that the 4th International Biophysics Congress will be held in Moscow U.S.S.R. from 7th - 14th August 1972. Funds will be available to enable participants from the U.K. to travel to Moscow.

71/5 Reports on Scientific Meetings

1. Main Winter Meeting

The Meetings Secretary, Dr W. Fuller, reported that the Winter Meeting of the Society on 'The Interaction of Proteins with Nucleic Acids' attracted 300 participants. In spite of difficulties with the weather which prevented the arrival of some Continental speakers and the threatened disruption by the work-to-rule of power station workers, the meeting ran smoothly. The treasurer, Dr M.P. Tombs, reported a surplus of £300 on the meeting and that it was necessary to reprint the abstracts for distribution to members. One written complaint concerning the high registration fees was received by the Secretary from Dr Tikwah Alper of the M.R.C. Experimental Radiopathology Research Unit, Hammersmith Hospital.

The Committee thanked Dr Fuller for his successful efforts in the organization of this meeting.

2. Physical Biochemistry Group

A meeting was held on 11th January 1971 at the Biophysics Department of King's College, Drury Lane on 'Intensity Fluctuation Spectroscopy of Scattered Laser Light and its Application to Diffusion Measurements'. The Secretary of the Group, Dr J.M. Creeth, reported that there was an

attendance of 30 - 40 and because of the informality of the meeting it was much enjoyed by all participants. There were 3 major speakers and much active discussion.

71/6 Future Scientific Meetings

1. Spring Meeting, Leeds, April 6th - 8th 1971

Dr K.D. Parker reported that arrangements had been completed for the Spring Meeting on 'Conformations of Polypeptides and fibrous Proteins' at The Astbury Department of Biophysics, University of Leeds. There were 3 overseas speakers: Professors A.M. Liquori, J. Lowy and H.A. Scheraga. A grant of £100 towards the expenses of Prof. Scheraga had been received from the Royal Society.

2. Winter Meeting, 14th - 16th December 1971

Dr Eric Reid and Professor P. Alexander have accepted the invitation of the Society to organize a meeting on 'Separation Methods in Cell and Molecular Biology' at the University of Surrey, Guildford. A lecture room for 300 and accommodation for 150 have been booked at the University. The Committee thought that accommodation for more than 150 might be required for this topic.

3. Spring Meeting 1972

An approach has been made to the Society by Dr R. Bray of the Molecular Enzymology Group to hold a joint meeting on 'Non-Heme Metalloproteins' in the Spring of 1972. Providing the Committee of the Molecular Enzymology Group are in agreement the meeting would be held at the University of Sussex and organized by Dr R. Bray.

4. December Meeting 1972

Two suggestions for topics were made by members of the

Committee; Professor G.A. Gilbert suggested a meeting on 'The Genetic Code and Phylogenetics of Protein Sequences' while Dr A.C.T. North thought that as it was now 10 years since the Society was formed, a general meeting on 'Biophysics - A Recent Survey' would be ~~more~~ suitable. Whichever topic was chosen the other could be carried forward to the Spring of 1973.

Physical Biochemistry Group

The original meeting arranged for April 1971 was enlarged to form the main Spring Meeting of the Society now being held at Leeds. Consequently there is now no meeting for April.

It is hoped to hold an Autumn Meeting on 'Computational Methods in Ultracentrifugation'. Following this, provisional arrangements have been made for January 1972 for Dr L. Stevens to organise a meeting on 'The Interactions of Small Ions with Macromolecules' in the Department of Biochemistry, King's College, London.

Other topics under active consideration are: 1. Microcalorimetry and 2. The Kinetics of Recombination and Hybridisation of Nucleic Acid Chains.

The Secretary of the Physical Biochemistry Group was strongly encouraged to proceed with the organisation of these meetings.

71/7 Finance

The treasurer reported a surplus of £300 on the Christmas Meeting. Concerning the Society's investments (70/29) it was decided that no further action was to be taken on seeking alternative investments.

71/8 European Biophysics Federation

It was noted that at the Annual General Meeting there was some feeling against the formation of a Federation of European Biophysical Societies. The Committee thought therefore that the views of members should be sought before representatives of the British

Biophysical Society attended discussions on the formation of the federation which are to be held during the First European Biophysics Congress at Baden, Austria, 14th - 17th September. The Treasurer and the Secretary were nominated by the Committee to attend the discussions.

71/9 First European Biophysics Congress, Baden, 14th - 17 September 1971

At the meeting of the British National Committee for Biophysics, 17th November 1970, it was recommended that a block grant of £1,000 be authorised for travel grants to this Congress. Further assistance has also been sought from the Wellcome Trust. Members of the Society are to be notified of the funds available to them on application to the Executive Secretary of The Royal Society. The closing date for applications is April 1st 1970.

71/10 Any Other Business

1. Administration

As reported earlier (70/29) the lease on 41, Queen's Gate expires in 1972. In preparation for a full discussion on the administration of the Society, the Secretary and Treasurer were asked to re-open discussions with the Biochemical Society on the use of their offices. Dr P. Fatt suggested a return to the original arrangement of part-time secretarial help for the Officers of the Society. This was discussed and it was thought that a return to the old system would be more efficient than the present arrangement.

2. The Committee decided to continue its policy of refusing requests of the membership lists.
3. It was left to the discretion of the Secretary to decide whether notices should be printed or copied.
4. The Committee thought that an advice service on apparatus used in Biochemistry would be valuable. Support was given

in principle to the proposals of Dr E. Reid in that such a service should be established.

71/11 The date of the next Committee Meeting was arranged for 2.30 p.m. Wednesday, 12th May 1971, to be held at the Institute of Biology.