

British Biophysical SocietyMinutes of the 4th Meeting of the Steering Committee

The 4th meeting was held at 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1, on Tuesday 27th September 1960 at 2.30 p.m.

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

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

1. The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Dr. T.V.M. Roberts of Glasgow University stating that he and others intended to organise a group of those interested in biophysics in Glasgow, and asking to be kept in touch with the activities of the British Biophysical Society. The Committee agreed.
2. Christmas meeting of the Society. In the absence of Professor Randall, the Secretary reported the present state of arrangements for the meeting. Plans for the muscle symposium were now almost complete, but there were still some problems about the papers to be presented, and Dr. Pringle agreed to correspond with Professor Randall on this subject. The second symposium would be on the structure of RNA and a number of invitations to speakers had been issued and accepted.
3. Rules of the Society. The second draft prepared by the Secretary <sup>(expanded)</sup> was discussed and a number of alterations were suggested. The Secretary was asked to prepare a third draft for the next meeting of the Committee.
4. Draft announcement of the formation of the Society. The draft <sup>(expanded)</sup> prepared by the Secretary, as amended by Professor Butler, was discussed by the Committee and further alterations were agreed. It was decided that a shortened version of this announcement should be sent to various societies and journals for publication. Arrangements for printing the full version would be made by the Treasurer, who would send copies to all those enquiring about the society.
5. Informal meetings of the Society. It was agreed that the society might from time to time sponsor informal meetings subject to the following

general principles.

- (i) All arrangements for such meetings would be in the hands of local organisers.
- (ii) Except as indicated in (iv) below, society funds would not in general be made available for informal meetings. This would imply that the charge for attending such meetings would be the same for members and for non-members.
- (iii) One member of the Committee would invariably be appointed to maintain liaison between the Committee and the local organisers of an informal meeting.
- (iv) The Treasurer would be empowered to make a loan to the local organisers whenever necessary. Any financial profit resulting from the meeting would then revert to the society, and any loss would be borne by society funds.

Proposals for informal meetings.

- (a) Phospholipid meeting. Professor Butler pointed out that the Biochemical Society proposed to hold a colloquium on a related subject, namely phospholipids and sulpholipids, on Friday 6th October, 1961. It was decided first, that Professor Eley be asked to keep in touch with the organisers of the phospholipid meeting, and second, that he should be asked to explore the possibility of a joint meeting with the Biochemical Society. *(note on this meeting appended)*
  - (b) Proposed meeting on radiation damage to organic and biological solids. The Committee agreed that the Society might sponsor an informal meeting on this subject to be held at Saclay, France, on April 13th (and possibly part of 14th) following the Faraday Society discussion on the effect of radiation on inorganic solids at the same place, on April 11th and 12th. The programme would be arranged by Professor Butler and Dr. Gray in conjunction with Professor Magat. The local arrangements would be the responsibility of Professor Magat. *(note on this meeting appended)*
6. The Treasurer was empowered to open an account in the name of the society at the Mayfield Road, Edinburgh, Branch of the Bank of Scotland.
  7. Gift from the Faraday Society. The Treasurer was empowered to ask the Faraday Society for a first instalment of £100 immediately, a second instalment of £300 during December 1960, and for two further instalments of £300 each at times during 1961 to be agreed between himself and the Treasurer of the Faraday Society.

8. Travelling expenses for members of the Committee. It was agreed that where necessary travelling expenses of members of the Committee would be met from society funds, in so far as those funds permitted.
9. Duplicating of society communications, office organisation etc.
- (a) The Treasurer reported that he had made arrangements for duplicating society communications with the University of Edinburgh Printing Department.
  - (b) The Treasurer was authorized to have addressograph plates prepared for the members of the society.
  - (c) The Treasurer was authorized to spend up to £35 on filing equipment.
  - (d) The treasurer reported that he would be able to arrange secretarial assistance in his department and that in general no payment would be required for this. He was, however, authorized to make ex gratia payments for overtime secretarial assistance whenever necessary.
10. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday 8th December at 6 Gray's Inn Square, W.C.1.

*J.M. Patten*

Draft Rules of the British Biophysical Society

(second draft)

Members

1. Persons who are, or have been, engaged in research or teaching connected with biophysics, biophysical chemistry, and related subjects shall be eligible for election as Ordinary Members.
2. The Committee may recommend for election as Honorary Members persons of distinction in science who have contributed to the advancement of biophysics.
3. Ordinary Members shall be nominated by the Committee for election to the Society, from names suggested in writing by Members. Election shall be by ballot and shall take place at General Meetings, the ballot papers having been circulated in advance.
4. Each Ordinary Member shall pay an annual subscription of two pounds, or such other rate as shall from time to time be determined by the Members at a General Meeting. The subscription is payable in advance, and becomes due on the 1st January. In the case of a newly elected Ordinary Member the first payment shall be made in and for the year of election (except that the subscription paid by Members elected after 1st October of any year shall be for the remainder of that year together with the whole year following).

Organisation

5. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee of Members, consisting of the Officers and nine other Members, to be referred to as Ordinary Members of the Committee.
6. The Officers shall be an Honorary Treasurer and two Honorary Secretaries. One of the Secretaries shall deal with scientific meetings and the second with other affairs of the Society. The Officers shall be nominated by the Committee and submitted for election at the Annual General Meeting each year, subject to the proviso that no Officer shall be eligible to continue in the same office for more than five consecutive years.
7. No Ordinary Member of the Committee shall be eligible to serve for more than three consecutive years, a rotation being arranged so that three Ordinary Members normally retire each year. Nominations to vacancies may be made by the Committee or by not less than five Members, for election at the Annual General Meeting.
8. The Committee shall elect one of its members to act as chairman at its meetings, and the Chairman may act for a period not greater than two years.

Proposal for informal meeting on the action of  
ionizing radiations on organic and biological solids

1. General. The meeting would follow a general discussion of the Faraday Society on the action of ionizing radiations on inorganic solids to be held at Saclay on April 11th/12th, 1964. It would have to be on April 13th, 1964, with the possibility, if the number of papers justified it, of some additional time on the morning of April 14th. It would be sponsored jointly by B.S.S. and the French members of the organising Committee. The latter would be responsible for local arrangements including accommodation. Invitations to read papers to be sent out by nominees of B.S.S. and Professor Magat on behalf of the French Group.
2. Subjects. It is proposed that the meeting be equally divided between organic and biological solids. In the former, which would be a necessary born of the latter group, consideration would be given mainly to studies of transient radicals by paramagnetic resonance, with possibly some work involving U.V. spectroscopy and quadrupole resonance. Chemical changes in organic solids, including synthetic polymers would be excluded. The consideration of biological solids would have to be more general.
3. Possible contributors.

Organic solids:	Ingram, Magat, Livingstone, Katsheon, Coursaget, Leich, Dacheux.
Biological solids:	Follard, Weiss, Alexander, Butler, Markovitch, Hms, Stein, Swallow, Davison, Flatzmann.

H. I. Gray

J. A. V. Butler

Original Proposal for Discussion on  
"The Physical Chemistry of the Phosphatides"

I. Preparation, purification and analysis

- (a) Chromatography
- (b) Ion exchange
- (c) Counter-current extraction
- (d) Chromatography of fatty acids
- (e) Synthesis.

Suggested participants:

Lee, Rhodes, Dawson (Cambridge), Hawthorne (Birmingham), Hatt (Liverpool), Jones, Baker, Gent (London), Malkin (Bristol), Raas, van Deenen (Utrecht), Saar (Montreal), Ehrhammer (Munich), Lovorn (Torry).

II. Physical properties of sols; physiological activity

- (a) Conductivity. Infra-red absorption
- (b) Light scattering, viscosity and diffusion.
- (c) Solubilisation, hemolysis, atheroma.
- (d) Films and membranes
- (e) Lipide metabolism.

Suggested participants:

Dervichian (Paris), Hamahan (U.S.A.), Fraser (Birmingham), Webster, Hill, Gray, Miss Nacfarlane, Robinson, Aylward, Saunders (London), Miss Olley (Torry), Pethica (Manchester), Hughes (Perivale), Finnean (Birmingham), Elworthy (Glasgow), Thomas (Cardiff), Bocij (Holland), Gent (London).

## Item 4.

The British Biophysical Society

It is proposed to form a new society, to be known as the British Biophysical Society, whose object will be to provide a common meeting ground for those interested in the functioning and structure of living organisms viewed from a physical standpoint and in the application of physical and physico-chemical techniques to biological problems.

The decision to found the new society arose from discussions of a Working Party, which was set up by the Faraday Society to consider the future of its Colloid and Biophysics Committee, and which recommended the formation of a new and independent Biophysical Society. Having accepted this recommendation, the Faraday Society has offered generous financial support during the formative stages and the Working Party has reconstituted itself as a Steering Committee to launch the new society. This Committee, whose members are given below, will conduct the affairs of the new society until a committee can be elected by the members at the first Annual General Meeting.

Persons who are, or have been, engaged in research or teaching in biophysics, biophysical chemistry, or related subjects will be eligible for election to membership of the Society. The annual subscription has been provisionally set at £2.0.0.; subscriptions paid during the remainder of 1960 will be valid for the whole of 1961. PERSONS AGED LESS THAN 27 years, who are students or who possess the qualifications indicated in rule 1, shall be eligible for election as Junior Members, whose annual subscription has been provisionally set at £1.

The first meeting of the new Society will be held at King's College, London on 19th and 20th December 1960, by invitation of Professor J.T. Randall, F.R.S. It will consist in part of symposia with invited speakers on comparative studies of muscular contraction and on the structure of ribonucleic acid, and in part of short contributed papers on the subjects of the symposia or on other subjects. Non-members may attend the meeting on payment of a registration fee.

Further meetings of the Society will take place during 1961, and members will be notified of arrangements for an International Biophysics Conference to be held in Stockholm from 31st July to 4th August 1961.

The members of the Steering Committee are Professor J.A.V. Butler, F.R.S. (Chairman), Dr. J.C. Kendrew, F.R.S. (Honorary Secretary), Dr. P.M.B. Walker (Honorary Treasurer), Professor D.D. Eley, Dr. L.H. Gray, Professor A.F. Huxley, F.R.S., Professor R.D. Preston, F.R.S., Dr. J.W.S. Pringle, F.R.S., Professor J.T. Randall, F.R.S., Professor F.J.W. Roughton, F.R.S., Sir Gordon Sutherland, F.R.S.

Those interested in joining the Society or in attending (or contributing papers to) the December meeting should apply to the Honorary Treasurer, Dr. P.M.B. Walker, Department of Zoology, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, 9. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Dr. J.C. Kendrew, F.R.S., Petrhuse, Cambridge.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

University Park,

Nottingham.

Tel. 45511

22nd August, 1960.

Dr. J. C. Kendrew, F.R.S.,  
M.R.C. Unit,  
Cavendish Laboratory,  
Cambridge.

Dear Kendrew,

I have now had some correspondence with Dr. L. Saunders of the School of Pharmacy, University of London, and can report as follows:

- (1) He suggests his symposium should be on the Physical Chemistry of the Phosphatides.
- (2) The meeting should be a one day meeting and the number of contributions should be about twelve.
- (3) It is proposed to hold the meeting at the School of Pharmacy and it is expected that about one hundred people would attend.
- (4) The date suggested is Tuesday, April 18th, 1961. Possibly a general meeting of the Biophysical Society could be held on the previous day.
- (5) The finance involved for the use of Lecture Theatre and Projection Apparatus would be of the order of fifteen guineas. Saunders proposes that lunch should be provided by the School of Pharmacy and that the meeting should be self-supporting financially.

Saunders' original suggestion as made to Professor Butler undoubtedly covered much too wide a field and brought in some thirty-odd possible contributors. I pointed out to him that we normally only have twenty-four contributors to a full scale meeting of the Faraday Society, and he has now made the above proposals which seem to me to be very much more feasible. I would like to suggest that the Committee supports these proposals.

Later on I hope to meet Saunders in London and have a more detailed discussion with him, but I have no doubt he will have ample contributors from which to choose his twelve.

Yours sincerely,

D.S. Eley



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Meetings

9. The Committee shall appoint a Member of the Society to be Chairman of each Scientific Meeting of the Society.
10. The last Scientific Meeting in each year shall be preceded by the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Other Scientific Meetings shall be preceded by Ordinary General Meetings whenever there is business to transact.
11. The business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive and consider Reports and Accounts presented by the Committee and Auditors; to confirm or deal with any acts of the Committee which may require confirmation; to elect the Officers and Committee of the Society and to appoint Auditors for the coming year; to elect new Members; and to transact any other business of which notice has been given.
12. The business to be transacted at an Ordinary General Meeting shall be to elect new Members and to transact any other business of which notice has been given.
13. At the General Meetings one of the Members present shall be elected to act as Chairman of that Meeting. To constitute a quorum at any General Meeting there shall be present in person or by proxy at least twenty five Members of whom fifteen at least shall be present in person.