

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the eleventh meeting of the Committee

The eleventh meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30 p.m. on Thursday, 21st May, 1964 at the Faraday Society, 6 Grays Inn Square, London, W.C.1.

Present: Dr. J.C. Kendrew (Chairman)
Prof. J. Dainty
Dr. W.B. Gratzer
Dr. R.D. Keynes
Dr. D. Noble
Prof. M.H.F. Wilkins
Prof. R.E. Burge (Meetings Secretary)
Dr. P.M.B. Walker (Hon. Treasurer)
Prof. D.D. Eley (Hon. Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. P. Johnson.

64/12 Future Meeting at Imperial College, London 8th - 9th January, 1965

Morphogenesis and Differentiation in Relation to Cellular Fine Structure.

Sir John Randall attended to report progress. He reported satisfactory replies from some fifteen authors, willing to give papers (list attached to signed minutes). Committee members were asked to suggest possible names for a speaker to give a general introduction to the meeting. Professor Chain was suggested as a possible after dinner speaker. There were some difficulties in arranging a local Organising Secretary, on account of the retirement of Prof. Helen Porter, and it was left to Sir John Randall and the Meetings Secretary to finally decide the venue for the meeting; one possibility suggested was the Physics Lecture Theatre at U.C.L. There was a problem in providing travel funds for Dr. Eberet (Argonne) and Sir John Randall proposed an approach to the Royal Society on the general problem of the Society in providing travelling expenses for major speakers from the U.S.A. The Secretary was asked to follow up this enquiry.

Sir John Randall then left the meeting.

64/13 Future Programme

Excitable Tissues, Oxford, April, 1966.

Dr. Dennis Noble reported this meeting could be held on Friday and Saturday 15-16th April. The Committee expressed a preference for Thursday and Friday

14-15 April. The Physiology Lecture Theatre was available and could provide the coffee, with Rhodes House for lunch, and Balliol College for overnight accommodation. The Committee asked Dr. Noble to make a provisional booking with arrangements for an attendance of 150, and agreed the general arrangements.

64/14 Physical Biochemistry Group

A letter from Dr. Peacocke reported that this group had its first meeting, dealing with "Recent developments in ultracentrifugation techniques", at King's College Biophysics Department, with an attendance of 50. Future meetings planned were 10th June, King's College; Optical Rotary Dispersion, and a possible meeting on electronic properties of biological macromolecules; The Secretary was asked to arrange for the Society's membership to be circulated with future plans for this group.

64/15 Conference of Editors of Scientific Societies at the Royal Society, 20th April '64

Neither Professor Burge nor Professor Eley were able to attend this meeting.

64/16 Travelling expenses for the I.O.P.A.B. Meeting, June 1964 in Paris

Approval was given to Dr. Keyne's allocation of £15 each to Miss E.A. McRobbie, Dr. Stein, Dr. Mears and Dr. Caldwell.

64/17 Proposed Publication of B.B.S. Abstracts of Papers

Dr. J.C. Kendrew in his capacity of Editor of the Journal of Molecular Biology, reported that the large majority of his advisory board had voted against publication of B.B.S. abstracts.

64/18 Summer School Sub-Committee

There was nothing to report. Prof. Wilkins said that he would call a meeting in Cambridge to review the present position.

64/19 Style of Meeting Sub-Committee

There had been no meeting but Prof. Burge reported that as a result of the Birmingham Meeting he was quite clear, himself, that the policy should be to only admit contributed papers on the subject of the symposium. It was agreed to put the subject on the Agenda for the A.G.M.

64/20 W.B. Hardy Symposium, 16.17th June, 1964, Cambridge.

The Secretary reported that the following members had agreed to attend the Symposium Dinner on behalf of the Society; Dr. Kendrew, Dr. P. Johnson, Dr. Perutz, Dr. Keynes, Prof. Eley.

Dr. Johnson reported that all the arrangements for the symposium were complete.

64/21 Membership

The Treasurer gave his view that new members were very few, in spite of the last two very successful meetings. It was pointed out that these meetings were joint meetings with the Biochemical Society, whose members attended in large numbers, without joining the Society. It might be desirable on these grounds to reduce the frequency of these joint meetings. After discussion, Dr. Gratzer was asked to consider the possible make-up of an Annual Review of Biophysics, for commercial printing and circulation to members at favourable rates. Committee members were asked to consider other possible inducements for increasing the membership and attractions of the Society.

64/22 Report of the Meetings Secretary

The detailed report is attached to the signed minutes. The following is a summary.

a) Symposium on the Structure and Function of lipid-Containing Systems; Birmingham University, 20-21st April, 1964. There was an attendance of 200, of whom only 40 were B.B.S. members. 21 papers were read of which 7 were by B.B.S. members. Invited and contributed papers were all worked into a convenient programme.

Future Meetings (apart from the two above, minutes 64/12 and 64/13)

b) Haemoglobin and Myoglobin, Cambridge, Thurs. and Fri. 8-9th April, 1965.

The dates were fixed as above, and the organisers decided for the three main discussions, Dr. Perutz (structure), Prof. Roughton (function) and Dr. Arnstein (Biosynthesis). Dr. H. Lehmann is to be invited to give the evening lecture. The Society is asked to contribute £150-200 towards travel expenses and to pay total expenses. At present there is no proposal to publish a book for this Conference. The Biochemical Society might organise a colloquium in association with this Conference.

c) Meeting at Queen Elizabeth College London, December 1965.

The proposed title is "Molecular Conformation in Biological Molecules". The first day it is proposed to have 4 review papers: (1) N.M.R., (2) E.S.R., Prof. Eley is asked to enquire of Prof. R.E. Richards and Dr. D.H. Whiffen, respectively, as to possible speakers on these topics. (3) Model building (4) Infra-red studies. Prof. Wilkins is to look into possible speakers for these topics, with possible consultations with Dr. Elliot on (4).

The second day it is proposed to discuss (5) Low angle electron diffraction (6) Low angle X-ray diffraction. Prof. Burge is asked to contact Prof. Lusatti and draw up a programme.

It was suggested that Prof. Wilkins might consider a possible review paper on helical diffraction theory.

d) Genetic Code and the Origin of Life, December 1966.

Dr. Leslie Orgel was mentioned as a possible contributor.

64/23 Education in Biophysics I.O.P.A.B., June 1964

Prof. Wilkins was asked to advise Dr. Keynes on possible British representation on this Committee.

64/24 British National Committee on Biochemistry

The Biophysical Society is asked to nominate one representative. The Secretary was asked to approach the following: Dr. P. Johnson, Prof. J.J. Weiss, Dr. A.R. Peacocke in that order and to inform the Royal Society.

64/25 Honorary Member

It was unanimously agreed to recommend that Prof. J.D. Bernal be elected as Honorary Member, and that Dr. Kendrew should write him of this intention.

64/26 Officers and Committee Members

The Secretary is asked to request nominations for (a) the offices of Hon. Secretary, Meetings Secretary and Hon. Treasurer and (b) three Committee members. Prof. Eley intends to nominate Prof. Burge as Hon. Secretary; and Prof. Burge intends to nominate Prof. Eley as an ordinary member.

64/27 Next Meeting

To be held at the Faraday Society at 2.30 p.m. on 1st October, 1964.

J. Kendrew
1.10.64