

British Biophysical Society

Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Steering Committee

The 12th meeting was held at 6, Gray's Inn Square at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th October, 1961.

Present: Professor J.A.V. Butler (Chairman)
Professor D. D. Eley
Professor A. F. Huxley
Professor J.W.S. Pringle
Professor J.T. Randall
Professor F.J.W. Roughton
Sir Gordon Sutherland
Dr. J. C. Kendrew (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. L. H. Gray, Professor R. D. Preston and Dr. P.M.B. Walker.

1. Report on Phospholipid Meeting, 5th October 1961

The appended report was presented by Professor Eley. The Steering Committee endorsed Professor Eley's proposal to pay £9. 15s. Od. from The Society's funds for the cost of dinners of invited speakers, and £1. Os. Od. for the hire of a lantern.

2. Future Meetings

a. Royal Institution, 12th and 13th December 1961

A report on the programme proposed for this meeting was made by the Honorary Secretary. It was agreed that Dr. Koshland should be asked to try to find his own sources of travel funds, the Honorary Secretary having reported that the Wellcome Trust would probably not regard an application for funds on behalf of Koshland as a strong one.

b. Meeting on Membrane Phenomena, March 1962

Professor Eley presented the proposals (appended) of the Sub-Committee organizing this meeting. These proposals were accepted, and Professor Eley was asked, in consultation with Dr. R.D. Keynes, to try to devise a title for the symposium which would clearly indicate that it would not overlap with the Edinburgh Meeting. The Sub-Committee was instructed if possible to arrange the meeting on the day following the Biochemical Society Symposium of 9th March on "Structure and Function of Membranes and Surfaces of Cells", i.e. on Saturday 10th March; if this date proved to be administratively inconvenient the meeting would take place on Thursday 8th March, i.e. on the day preceeding the Biochemical Society meeting.

c. Meeting at Cambridge, 26th and 27th September 1962

It was agreed that this meeting should take place on the above dates, and Professor Roughton, Professor Eley and Dr. Kendrew

were appointed members of an Organizing Sub-Committee. Possible topics suggested for symposia were (i) haemoglobin (ii) radiation biology.

3. International Organization of Biophysics

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to write a letter to the Secretaries of the Royal Society requesting that the Council of the Royal Society should consider setting up a National Committee on Biophysics for the purpose of adhering to an International Organization of Biophysics. Copies of this letter would be sent to the Secretaries of the British Radiological Society and the Hospital Physicists Association.

4. Steering Committee Nominations for election of officers and Committee

Sir Gordon Sutherland and Dr. L. H. Gray having declared themselves unwilling to be nominated for election, the Steering Committee agreed on the following nominations to be submitted for election at the Annual General Meeting:

a. For election as Ordinary Members of the Committee

Professor J.A.V. Butler
 Professor A.F. Huxley
 Professor R.D. Preston
 Professor J.W.S. Pringle
 Professor J.T. Randall
 Professor F.J.W. Roughton

Members of Steering Committee

Dr. S. Brenner
 Dr. R.D. Keynes
 Professor J.J. Weiss

b. For election as Officers

Dr. J. C. Kendrew - Honorary Secretary
 Professor D. D. Eley - Meetings Secretary
 Dr. P.M.B. Walker - Honorary Treasurer

5. Annual General Meeting

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to prepare a report on the activities of the Society up to December 1961, for presentation to the members at the Annual General meeting. The Meetings Secretary and Treasurer were asked to provide the Secretary with information to be incorporated in this report.

6. Financial support for invited speakers from abroad

In amplification of the decisions recorded in minute 2c (i) of the 9th Meeting (5th May, 1961) the Steering Committee made the following rulings:

- a. Invited speakers from abroad should be asked in the first instance to find financial support for their travel expenses from local sources, but would be told that the Society would try to help if these failed.

- b. Travel grants would be based on Tourist Class air fares, and on a subsistence allowance of 53/6d. a day, equal to the highest rate paid by the Civil Service.
- c. No general request for financial assistance for visiting speakers would be made at present to the Wellcome Trust.

7. Letter from the Secretary of the Biochemical Society (appended)

The Honorary Secretary was instructed to reply to this letter in the following sense.

- a. Accommodation The Society does not anticipate a need for permanent accommodation in the foreseeable future, nor could it afford this.
- b. Publishing The present policy of the Steering Committee is that the Society should not publish its own journal, but it takes note of the proposal for a non-profit-making publishing house and feels goodwill towards it.
- c. Representative Organization of Learned Societies The Steering Committee does not see a good case for such an organization, but would like to be kept in touch with the progress of this proposal.

8. Joint British Committee for Electron Microscopy

The Steering Committee appointed Professor Randall to be one of its two representatives on this Committee. (Dr. H. E. Huxley has already been appointed: See minute 4 of the 10th meeting).

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held early in December 1961.

