

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The twenty-seventh meeting of the Committee took place at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 21st, 1969 at the Institute of Biology, 41 Queen's Gate, London S.W.7.

Present : Dr. E.M. Bradbury (Meeting Secretary)
Dr. D.M. Blow
Professor R.E. Burge
Dr. J.B. Finean (Secretary)
Professor R.A. Kekwick
Dr. A.C.T. North
Dr. A.R. Peacocke
Professor M.R. Pollock
Professor R.H. Pritchard
Dr. E.C. Richards
Dr. M.P. Tombs (Treasurer)
Professor P.M.B. Walker

Apologies were received from Dr. P. Fatt.

69/15 Professor Burge proposed that Dr. A.R. Peacocke should be Chairman of the Committee for 1969. This was agreed unanimously and Dr. Peacocke took the chair

69/16 The minutes of the 26th meeting of the Committee were approved and signed by the Chairman.

69/17 Matters arising from the minutes not listed separately in the agenda:

Publications (69/8)

The Secretary reported that a reply had not yet been received from Pergamon Press regarding the availability of Volume 19 of Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology to members of the Society at a reduced rate but that he would press for a reply before the next circulation of information to members.

Minute 69/10. The Secretary reported that he had written to Sir Bernard Katz to convey the congratulations of the committee on his Knighthood: Sir Bernard's reply thanking the Committee for their good wishes was circulated among members of the Committee.

69/18 Reports from Representatives on other Committees

Biophysics Committee of the Royal Society - the Secretary reported that the main business of the most recent meeting of this committee had been to appoint a sub-committee to distribute travel funds for the Third International Congress of Biophysics in Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A. and to suggest nominees to the committees of IUPAB.

Parliamentary and Scientific Committee - The Committee discussed representation and decided that the Secretary should continue as its representative.

Joint British Committee for Electron Microscopy - The Secretary reported that the main business of the committee at the present time was the organisation of the International Congress of Electron Microscopy which was to be held in Manchester in September 1972. One of the B.B.S. Representatives, Dr. Huxley, was a member of the Biological Sub-Committee. Professor Pollock confirmed that Dr. P.J. Highton was willing to be nominated as the second Representative.

United Kingdom Crystallographic Council - Dr. Louise Johnson attended the preliminary meetings to consider the formation of such a council and reported on its objectives which were now specified in a draft constitution submitted to Societies for their approval. From the

discussion which followed in the Biophysical Society Committee it became clear that there was still some uncertainty concerning the need for such a council and Dr. Blow, who had been nominated as the Society's Representative but had been unable to attend the preliminary meeting, was asked to make an assessment of the available documents and to discuss the matter further on behalf of the Society.

Biological Council - The Secretary reported that he had attended a meeting of the council whose general objectives included coordination of the activities of the constituent societies. He had also a letter inviting the British Biophysical Society to become a member of the U.K. Liaison Committee of Sciences allied to Medicine and Biology whose objectives were very similar to those of the Biological Council but whose constituent societies tended to be more on the medical and physical side. It was decided to defer decision on joining the U.K. Liaison Committee but to reply with the suggestion that a merging of the Biological Council and the U.K. Liaison Committee ought to be considered.

Editorial Board of the Biochemical Journal - The Secretary reported that Dr. N.M.Green had agreed to serve on the Editorial Board as a nominee of the British Biophysical Society. The Secretary also reported that the Chairman of the Editorial Board had discussed with him informally a manuscript from a member of the British Biophysical Society which might be considered to be inappropriate for the Biochemical Journal. The Committee agreed that whilst there could be physical papers which were outside the present scope of the journal the British Biophysical Society understood that one of the purposes of the collaboration was to extend the scope of the Biochemical Journal.

Computer Group - Dr. North reported that the last meeting of this group in Liverpool had coincided with the Spring Meeting of the Biophysical Society in Birmingham and that the next meeting overlapped with the Winter Meeting in London. He was attempting to get the date of the group meeting changed and would press for greater collaboration between the Biochemical Society and the British Biophysical Society in arranging joint group meetings.

16/19

Report of Birmingham Meeting

Dr. Finean reported that the Birmingham meeting on Biophysical Studies of Cell Membranes had gone off well and had been attended by 120. The financial statement had not yet been completed. Dr. Richards commented that many members had been disappointed to find that the Birmingham meeting coincided with a Biochemical Society meeting in Liverpool and asked if such clashes could be avoided. Dr. Finean replied that the bookings for the Birmingham meeting had had to be made two years in advance and that at that time the Biochemical Society's programme for 1969 had not been generally available. The Meetings Secretary agreed to send all Future Meetings circulars to the Biochemical Society. Dr. Finean then reported that Professor J.A. Lucy had written a very extensive report of the meeting for publication in FEBS Letters. Dr. Finean had sent photocopies of sections of the report to all speakers for their approval.

69/20

The Meetings Secretary reported that the date of the next one-day meeting of the Physical Biochemistry group had been changed to June 23rd in order to accommodate the main speaker. Abstracts were available and might be distributed at the meeting.

Further one-day meetings had been arranged for September 12th, 1969 at the Unilever Laboratories, Isleworth (Conformational Changes in Biopolymers) and on January 8th, 1970 at King's College, London (Application of U.V. Absorption Spectroscopy to Studies of Biopolymers).

A full provisional programme for the main Winter Meeting, 1969 on "Photosynthesis" had been drawn up by Dr. Walker of Imperial College. The number of speakers from overseas was high and it was felt that a registration fee should be charged to all participants. In addition, an application might be made to The Royal Society to cover the travel expenses of one of the speakers from Israel. The Ciba Foundation were again making some rooms available for speakers.

The Spring Meeting for 1970 was confirmed but there were no further details.

Professor Walker suggested that a suitable topic for December 1970 might be the interaction of protein and nucleic acid. As this meeting would normally be held in London perhaps someone at King's College (Dr. Fuller ?) might agree to organise the programme.

For Spring, 1971, a topic in the Neurosciences was considered and Professor Pollock undertook to discuss possibilities with Professor Longuet-Higgins. Dr. Peacocke suggested that "Irreversible Thermodynamics" might also be considered.

A proposal from the British Polymer Physics Group for a joint one-day meeting on the structure of natural and synthetic biopolymers on September 24th or 25th, 1970 was agreed to.

Professor Pollock reported that the one-day meeting planned for Edinburgh in May would now be held in the Autumn. He would produce a list of Northern members for circulation.

Summer School: Professor Walker reported that he had received a request from the Ciba Foundation to ^{organise} ~~organise~~ a meeting in London on the same topic as for the Summer School. This might help with the financing of the School.

16/21 Teaching of Biophysics

Professor Burge introduced a discussion of the Society's role in assessing the need for scientists with training in biophysics and the provision of such training in Universities. It was agreed that the possibility of organising a general meeting to consider these topics should be assessed and Professor Burge was asked to do this in consultation with Dr. Tombs and Dr. Finean.

16/22 Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next committee meeting at the Institute of Biology, 41, Queen's Gate, London S.W.7. at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30th, 1969.

*A.R. Peacocke
Chairman
30/9/69.*