

BRITISH BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY

The 33rd Meeting of the Committee was held at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday,
12th May 1971 at the Institute of Biology.

Present: Dr D.M. Blow
Dr E.M. Bradbury (Secretary)
Dr J.M. Creeth
Dr P. Fatt
Dr J.B. Finean (Chairman)
Dr W. Fuller (Meetings Secretary)
Prof. G.A. Gilbert
Dr A.C.T. North
Dr K.D. Parker
Dr E.G. Richards

Apologies were received from Professors P.M.B Walker and J. Subak-Sharpe.

71/12 The Minutes of the 32nd Meeting of the Committee were approved
and signed by the Chairman.

71/13 Matters arising from the minutes which are not listed separately
in the agenda.

Training and Careers in Biophysics (70/22, 70/24, 71/3)

The draft table listing biophysics courses with a substantial
biophysics content was discussed further.

It was suggested that the table should include the number of hours
spent on lectures, and practical classes and the number of students
taking the courses. Prior to this meeting Dr P. Fatt had sent a
list of London Colleges and Medical Schools where courses con-
taining a high content of biophysics might be taught. The
Secretary is to write to these Colleges for further information
which is to be added to the table. The table will then be sent
to the contributors for correction and additions.

The desirability of holding a one day meeting on

Training and Careers in Biophysics was also discussed. It was decided that Prof. R.E. Burge of Queen Elizabeth College should be invited to organize such a meeting in the Autumn of 1971 which should be restricted to invited participants known to have a strong interest in the topic. Later (see Future Meetings) it was suggested that this one day meeting could combine a morning session on the Training and Careers in Biophysics with an afternoon session on "The use of Molecular Models in Teaching".

71/14

Reports from Representatives on Joint Committees

1. Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

The Secretary attended the Annual General Meeting and Luncheon of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. After the election of Officers the President suggested that the main discussions of this Committee should centre on the following topics:

- i) Drugs and Alcoholism
- ii) Pollution
- iii) Environment
- iv) The 3rd London Airport
- v) Safety of Workers.

In the time allowed for discussion fears were expressed from the floor on the future of the Medical and Agricultural Research Councils.

Following this brief report Dr Blow suggested that the British Biophysical Society should also concern itself with some of the topics listed above, e.g. a meeting could be held to discuss Pollution or other topics.

2. U.K. Crystallographic Council

Dr North thought that as the fees for the Manchester meeting were high, the reduced rates for student members of the Institute of Physics should also apply to student members of

all societies constituting the Council. Dr Blow is to raise this point at the next meeting.

Computer and Instrumentation Group

Dr North reported a difference of opinion in the Committee of this Group on the policy for holding meetings as to whether meetings should be held regularly or only on those occasions when a suitable topic was available. It was also proposed that the Group organize an information service.

Dr Fuller expressed the view that the next meeting to be held in Dublin was not easily accessible.

71/15 Reports on Scientific Meetings

The Spring Meeting, Leeds, 6 - 8th April 1971

Dr Parker reported that the Leeds meeting on "The Conformations of Polypeptides and Fibrous Proteins" had attracted 130 participants. He thought that there may be a small excess from the registration fees and accommodation charges. A full report on the financial aspect will have to be made by the Treasurer.

Members of the Committee who attended the meeting expressed their appreciation of a very successful meeting.

71/16 Future Scientific Meetings

i) The Winter Meeting, University of Surrey, 14 - 16 December 1971

Dr Fuller reported that most arrangements for this meeting were now complete. Great concern was expressed, however, by the Committee on the large number of speakers listed in the programme and the growing expenses. The Meetings Secretary was asked to express this concern to the organizer, Dr E. Reid and to give the following upper limits: a) 20 speakers, b) £350 to be provided by the Society (plus monies raised from external sources). The Committee strongly opposed the publication of papers in a book under the name of the Society though the

organizer may make his own arrangements for publication of papers from willing contributors. It was thought very undesirable that people presenting papers at a meeting sponsored by the British Biophysical Society should be imposed upon to provide a manuscript for publication in a book. It was agreed that the offer of a reception by Pharmacia would be accepted.

ii) Spring Meeting, April 1972

The original proposal was that a joint meeting should be held with the Molecular Enzymology Group on "Non-Heme Metalloproteins" at the University of Sussex. Dr Fuller reported that difficulties have now arisen with these arrangements and the Molecular Enzymology Group have suggested that the joint meeting be held in Oxford in September 1972. If this new date and venue is confirmed it was thought that another meeting should be arranged for April 1972. The expenses for both these meetings to be no more than the amount originally suggested for a full Spring Meeting, i.e. £300 which is to be divided between the two meetings. Dr Creeth pointed out that he had been approached by LKB who would like to sponsor a meeting with this Society in Spring 1972 on "Microcalorimetry and its application to Biochemistry". The Committee thought this would be a suitable topic to replace the meeting on 'Non-Heme Metalloproteins' if the latter were transferred to Oxford. A two day meeting was suggested and Dr North expressed the hope that one of these days would be suitable for non-specialists.

iii) Winter Meeting, December 1972

The topic proposed is "Biophysics 1960 - 1970. A 10 year survey". Dr North agreed to coordinate the meeting. The suggested venue is the New Hall at King's College in the Strand if the hall has

a capacity of 300.

iv) Spring Meeting, April 1973

The topic originally proposed by Prof. Gilbert of "The Genetic Code and Phylogenetics of Proteins" to be organized or arranged by Dr Blow and held at Cambridge (or Edinburgh).

v) 1 Day Meeting

September 1971 (see 71/ 13). Professor R.E. Burge to be approached to organize a one day meeting; the morning session "Training and Careers in Biophysics" for invited participants and the afternoon session on "The use of Molecular Models in Teaching", a topic suggested by Dr Ivor Smith of the Courtauld Inst.

vi) Physical Biochemistry Group

1. September 27th 1971

"Computational Methods in Analytical Ultracentrifugation"

Organizer: Dr. P.A. Charlewood, National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill.

2. January 1972

"The Interactions of Ions with Macromolecules"

Organizer: Dr L. Stevens, Department of Biochemistry, King's College, Strand, London W C 2.

vii) Other Suggestions

Dr McMullen (Microbiological Research Establishment, Porton)

"Membranes and Models of Membranes"

Dr P. Fatt

"Active Transport in Membranes"

71/17

Finance

Treasurer to report on the financial situation at the next Committee Meeting.

71/18 Administration

The Committee decided to terminate its present arrangements with the Institute of Biology on 31st July 1971 and to transfer the handling of its administration to the Biochemical Society from 1st August 1971.

71/19 Federation of European Biophysics Societies

The response by members of the Society for their views on the proposed Federation was very disappointing, Dr A.R. Peacocke was in favour, while Dr M. Davies and Dr T. Alper were opposed to the formation of such a Federation.

Members of the Committee were also divided in their views. Dr North thought the formation of a separate Federation should be opposed and that the organization of European Biophysical Societies might best be arranged through FEBS. Prof. Gilbert suggested that a Federation of European Biochemical and Biophysical Societies might be considered. Dr Finean expressed the view that some sort of organization of European Biophysical Societies was desirable and that this had been expressed in the past in Committee Meetings of this Society. The initiative had, however, been taken by the Austrian Society. Both Dr Blow and Dr Fatt thought that exchange of information between European Biophysical Societies so that meetings of the different societies could be well publicized was to be encouraged and that this could be arranged through some loose and informal organization. All Committee Members were opposed to a rigid Federation involving a formal secretariat etc. It was thought that any rigid and formal organization would be expensive both in finance and time; the finance would have to be provided from members' subscriptions and the time by officers of the Societies.

71/20 First European Biophysics Congress

Grants of £1,000 from the Royal Society and £500 from the Wellcome

Trust had been provided to support travel expenses of members of the Society. 16 applications had been received and the sub-committee of the British National Committee for Biophysics had awarded travel grants totalling approximately £900. The surplus will be returned to the Royal Society.

71/21 Any Other Business

i. 4th International Biophysics Congress, Moscow 7 - 14th August 1972.

The Committee hazarded a guess that 75 members of the Society might wish to attend this meeting. This number is required by the British National Committee for Biophysics in their approach to the Royal Society for a Grant to assist travel expenses.

- ii. Mention was made of the memorial service for the late Dame Kathleen Lonsdale, F.R.S. for the information of those members of the Committee who may wish to attend.

71/22 The date for the next Committee Meeting was arranged for Wednesday, 6th October at the Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, High Holborn, London.