

Laws of the Royal Physical Society as enacted 17th May, MDCCCXLIX.

Contributors

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L A W S
OF THE
ROYAL PHYSICAL SOCIETY,

AS ENACTED

17TH MAY, MDCCCXLIX.

CARTA SOCIETATEM PHYSICALIS REGALIS EDINBURGENÆ
IN UNUM CORPUS POLITICUM ERIGENS.

GEORGIUS, Dei gratia, Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, fideiq. Defensor, omnibus probis hominibus ad quos præsentis Literæ pervenerint, salutem : Sciatis nos considerantes quod petitio humilis a præside numeroq. Societatis Physicalis Edinburgenæ selecto nobis oblata fuerit, commemorans Societatem modo dict. Edinburgi A.D. 1771, eruditionem physicam medicamq. promovendi consilio institutam fuisse, ex eo tempore eand. instituendi proposito ex toto respondisse, et famam suam ad Scholas Scientiæ et in Europa et in America diversas haud dubie diffudisse, conventus hujusce Societatis unaquaq. hebdomada habitos esse, per singulos quorum duæ dissertationes, una Latine altera vero Anglice conscripta, accurate examinantur, materiamq. disputandi sociis Societatis suppeditant, et omnes quasi uno ore confitentur disputationes doctrina ingenio candore administratas esse, et Latinas præsertim plus ad illam linguam conservandam quam cujuslibet alius Societatis in Magna Britannia proprias collatas esse multos utilitatem hujus Societatis ab institutione prima usq. fuisse expertos, et omnes medicinæ studiosos totius academiæ se multum fructus inde percepisse, confessos esse Societatem hodie ex aliquot sociorum centuriis constare, quorum multi non parvum famæ existimationisq. sibi adepti sunt, et professores academiæ commodis institutionis constanter pro virili consuluisse, Societatem in aliquantum temporis ædificium commodum elegansq. in Hunteri septo, Anglice Hunter's Park, situm, cum spatio terræ non modico ei circumdato possedissee ædificium terramq. Libraria excepta, quæ e multis voluminum centuriis constat. et supellectilem plusquam mille Libras Sterlinas valore adæquare, et e conditione Societatis florentissimæ, qui omnibus qui commodis eruditionis cupiunt, non maximæ voluptati nequeat, proprietatem Societatis constanter multumq. auctum iri, facile posse separari cæterum in conditione præsentis haud esse tutum, nec ullas quas stabilire possent regulas aliter quam obedientia sociorum voluntaria tueri et conservari posse, petitores igitur omnibus votis ex optare, obtinere, et impetrare literas nostras regias patentes, et regium Diploma, quod eos in Societatem sub titulo et nomine Regalis Physicalis Societatis Edinburgenæ redigat, cum talibus regulis, ordinationibus, et restrictionibus, quales nobis idoneæ justæq. esse videbuntur : Nos igitur consilium supplicium in primis frugiferum, et salutare existimantes, et quod adjuvemus quam maxime dignum Diploma, vel Cartam nostram regiam comprobari et expediri, sub sigillo nostro per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia, vice et loco magni sigilli ejusd. utend. ordinat. mandamus ad constituend. origend. et incorporand. sicuti nos pro nobismetipsis et regiis successoribus prerogativa nostra Regia et speciali gratia constituimus, erigimus, et incorporamus, et pro perpetuo stabilimus et confirmamus, Robertum Ross ex Comitatu de Cork, Josephum Nicoles Wilson, nuper ex Carolina Australi, Jacobum Robertson ex Inverness, et Gulielmum Allanby ex Cumberland, præsides dict. Societatis, atq. successores eorum in officio pro tempore, omnes aliosq. socios præsentis et quicumq. ei in posterum, socii adsciti fuerint, in unum corpus politicum et Corporatum, seu Incorporationem legitimam sub nomine et titulo SOCIETATIS PHYSICALIS REGALIS EDINBURGENÆ, et in eo, et tali titulo durationem et successionem futurum in perpetuo, tenere et possessiones reales et personales appropriare atq. tenere, agere, prosequi, defendere, ac respondere, et agi, excipi, defendi, ac responderi possint in omnibus atq. singulis curiis nostris, atq. in aliis rebus agere et facere secundum legem et praxin regnorum nostrorum in casibus similibus : In cujus rei testimonium, præsentibus sigillum nostrum per unionis tractatum custodiend. et in Scotia vice et loco magni sigilli ejusd. utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus, apud aulum nostram apud St James', quinto die mensis Maii A.D. 1788, regniq. nostri 28.

L A W S.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

THE Office-bearers of the Society shall be:—Three Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and six Councillors.

The election of office-bearers shall be by ballot, and take place at the second ordinary meeting of every session.

The President in the chair shall have a casting vote, in addition to his vote as Member.

One President and two Councillors, shall go out annually by rotation from the head of the list, and shall not be re-elegible for one year.

ORDINARY MEETINGS.

The ordinary meetings of the Society shall commence on the second Wednesday of November, and continue monthly or oftener, by adjournment, till the end of April.

Private business shall commence precisely at half-past seven o'clock, and public business at eight o'clock.

Six Members, one of whom shall be an office-bearer, to form a quorum.

EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS.

Any two of the Presidents, or any seven Members, one of whom must be an Office-bearer, may call an extraordinary meeting of the Society

ALTERATION OF LAWS AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY.

When a motion is made for the alteration of existing laws, or the enactment of new ones, it shall lie over till the next ordinary meeting, and if then approved of by two-thirds of the Members present, shall be held as carried. The purport of such motion shall be stated in the billets calling the meeting at which it is to be considered.

The Society's property cannot be disposed of or alienated, unless a proposition to that effect be recommended by the Council, and agreed to by three-fourths of the Members present at a regularly constituted meeting, called by circular, intimating the nature of the business.

MEMBERSHIP.

An application for membership must be made to the Council, on the recommendation of a Member; and after receiving their sanction, the name and residence of the applicant shall be printed in the circular calling the meeting of the Society at which he is to be elected, and the assent of two-thirds of the Members present shall be required for his admission. He shall, on being admitted, pay to the President in the chair, the sum of Twenty-five Shillings of admission money. The subsequent payments shall be One Guinea for each of the two following years; or the whole may be compounded for by the payment of Three Pounds.

Ordinary Members, non-resident in Edinburgh, shall, on their election, pay a contribution of One Guinea. From such no further payment shall be required, unless they become resident, when two annual fees of a Guinea shall be exigible. All fees to be payable at the second meeting of each session.

Every gentleman on his admission shall subscribe the following declaration:—

“ By signing my name, I pledge my word and honour, that I will be obedient to all the Laws of the Society, and that I will exert myself to the utmost of my power for the promotion of its interest and honour.”

HONORARY MEMBERS.

The title of Honorary Member may, on a recommendation from the Council, be granted to any gentleman eminently skilled in the sciences which the Society cultivates. The proposal must be printed in the circulars calling the meeting at which he is to be elected; and when ballotted for, he shall be admitted, unless one-sixth of the votes appear against him.

Not more than three Honorary Members shall be elected during any one session.

TREASURER.

The Treasurer, on entering upon office, shall give such security as the Council deem sufficient, and shall continue in office as long as he faithfully performs his duty.

He shall disburse none of the funds of the Society without the consent or order of the Council.

On the receipt of the sums collected by the President, he shall subscribe his name in the Cash-book of the Society, certifying the several sums received.

He shall lay before the Council, at the appointed time, an account of his intromissions, with the requisite vouchers.

He shall open an account, in the name of the Society, with one of the chartered banks of Edinburgh; and whenever the balance in his hands amounts to L.10, he

shall deposit the same in the bank. Drafts on the account shall be signed by the Treasurer and Secretary.

SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall write the Minutes, and have charge of the Minute-book, the Charter-box, the Seals, and the Records of the Society.

He shall convene the Council on the last Wednesday of October, and thereafter send billets to every Member in town, announcing the commencement of the session and titles of papers.

LIBRARIAN.

The Librarian shall lend the books out to Members only; and he shall mark them down in the presence of the Member receiving them, which shall be deemed equivalent to a receipt.

He shall be empowered to enforce a fine of One Shilling for each week a book is retained after it shall have been specially called in.

VISITORS.

At each ordinary meeting of the Society, every Member shall have the right of introducing two visitors, to be present during public business.

EXPULSION.

A list of defaulters shall be exhibited in the Society's place of meeting; and those who do not, after intimation, discharge their obligations before the end of the session, shall be no longer Members of the Society.

A majority of two-thirds of the Members present shall be requisite to expel any individual accused of improper

conduct—the charge having been laid before the Council at a previous meeting.

THE COUNCIL.

The Council shall consist of the Office-bearers, and shall hold meetings upon the requisition of the Secretary, or any two of its Members.

It shall, at the last meeting but one of the Society in each session, examine the Treasurer's accounts; and shall, at the last meeting, present a statement of the whole income and expenditure of the Society since last balance.

It shall, in addition to making arrangements for the ordinary business of the Society, appoint Committees for Specific Investigations at the close of each session, the Conveners of which shall report progress at the ordinary meetings of the Society during the following session.

DIPLOMAS.

Diplomas may be granted to Ordinary and Honorary Members.

No Member who shall not have paid all his contributions, shall be entitled to receive a diploma.

The sum of Ten Shillings and Sixpence shall be paid to the President in the chair, when the petition for a diploma is sustained; but diplomas to Honorary Members shall be granted, exempt from all fees.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

1. Chair taken at half-past seven o'clock.
2. Minutes of preceding meeting read.
3. Report of Council read.
4. Applications for admission read.
5. Members proposed at preceding meeting balloted for.
6. Motions intimated at previous meeting discussed.
7. New motions intimated.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. New Members enrolled, and fees paid.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

1. Chair taken at eight o'clock.
2. Minutes of preceding public business read.
3. Specimens, books, &c., presented.
4. Communications and papers read.
5. Exhibition of interesting specimens, &c.
6. Papers and communications for next meeting announced.
7. Society adjourned.