

## **The Sociological Society.**

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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# The Sociological Society.



1904.

11  
The Secretary, Psychological Society,  
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# The Sociological Society.

1904.



# The Sociological Society.

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### III.—CONSTITUTIVE MEETING



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## ORIGIN OF THE SOCIETY.

As a result of inquiries made in London and elsewhere, and extending over fully twelve months, the present time was deemed ripe for the formation of a Society to promote scientific studies in Sociology.

An informal preliminary meeting was held, by permission, at the rooms of the Royal Statistical Society, on May 16th, 1903, to consider the matter.

In order to secure an adequate expression of opinion on the question of the advisability of forming a Society, it was decided at this meeting to call a Conference of representatives of the various studies and practical interests concerned. To carry out this purpose a circular was issued in the following terms :—

### Proposed SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

5, OLD QUEEN STREET, WESTMINSTER.

*June 7, 1903.*

DEAR SIR,

I am instructed to invite your presence at a Conference to be held in the Rooms of the Royal Statistical Society on Monday, June 29th, at 3.30 p.m. The purpose of the Conference is to consider the question of forming a Society for the promotion of Scientific and Philosophical Studies in Sociology.

The decision to call a Conference of those likely to be interested in the matter was reached at a Meeting held at the Rooms of the Royal Statistical Society, 9, Adelphi Terrace, Strand, W.C., on May 16 last, at which were present the Right Hon. J. BRYCE, M.P. (in the Chair), Dr. C. M. DOUGLAS, M.P., Dr. A. C. HADDON, Mr. C. S. LOCH, Dr. R. D. ROBERTS, Professor SULLY, Mr. E. J. URWICK, and Mr. J. MARTIN WHITE. It was also decided at this Meeting to submit to the Conference the two following Resolutions :—

1. "This Meeting resolves that a Society be formed for the promotion and organization of those studies which are increasingly pursued under the title of Sociology."
2. "This Meeting appoints the undermentioned as a Committee (with power to add to their number) to carry out the foregoing Resolution."

It would greatly facilitate the work of the Provisional Committee if you would be so kind as to fill up and return the annexed form.

The enclosed Paper, "On the Origin and Use of the word Sociology, and on the relation of Sociological to other Studies and to Practical Problems," has been drawn up by a member



of the Provisional Committee; it is intended to elicit discussion, and it is not to be held as in any way binding the future Sociological Society.

I am, your obedient Servant,

VICTOR V. BRANFORD,

*Hon. Sec. Provisional Committee.*

*Name and Designation*.....

*Postal Address*.....

Can you be present at the Conference on June 29?.....

Are you in favour of the formation of a Society for  
the promotion of scientific and philosophical  
studies in Sociology? } .....

Will you allow your name to be added to the list of }  
General Committee of the proposed Society? } .....

*Date*.....

To VICTOR V. BRANFORD,  
5, Old Queen Street, Westminster.

This circular, accompanied by a Monograph "On the Origin and Use of the Word Sociology," prepared by the Hon. Secretary, was addressed to teachers of Philosophy, History, and Economics, in the Universities and University Colleges of this country. It was also sent to a few selected representatives of relevant scientific groups, and practical interests, and to a few foreign Sociologists.

The representative and favourable character of the replies to this circular is sufficiently evidenced by a glance at the names of the Provisional Committee for the formation of the Society. Of the 184 persons who replied to the circular, none did so in the negative, 4 declared themselves unable to express an opinion, 4 expressed a qualified approval, and the remaining 176 replied in the affirmative, many adding expressions of urgency and emphasis.

## EXPRESSIONS OF APPROVAL.

From the large number of letters received expressing approval of the project, the following extracts may be cited:—

From Rt. Hon. A. J. BALFOUR, M.P.

"I am obliged to you for your letter of June 24th and its enclosure.

"I welcome any attempt to organise Sociological investigations on a strictly scientific basis. I understand this to be the object of the proposed Society, and, if so, I heartily wish it success."



From Professor ALEXANDER (*Professor of Philosophy, The Victoria University of Manchester*).

"I am very much in favour of your Sociological Society."

From the late Professor BAIN.

"I beg to say that the object of the Society has my cordial approval. My published writings sufficiently testify to the interest I have long felt in the subject; although from my years and failing health I cannot take an active share in any proceedings."

From Professor BASTABLE (*Professor of Economics, Trinity College, Dublin*).

"I have long felt the need of such a Society. If in any way I can further the movement you are initiating I shall be happy to do so."

From HILAIRE BELLOC (*Author of "Danton," etc.*).

"To the question whether I am in favour of the formation of such a Society, I can only answer that naturally I am so, as I think must everybody be who recognises how woefully behindhand we are in all provinces of exact knowledge."

From the Rev. A. CALDECOTT (*Professor of Logic and Philosophy, King's College, and Chairman of the Board of Philosophical Studies in the University of London*).

"Had I been able to attend the Conference, I should (if opportunity offered) have urged that any new Society be understood to be of a *wide scope*, to include the study of social life in its highest as well as in its lowest ranges. It should not be supposed to be Anthropological in any special way, but should include every aspect of human life from the social standpoint. In this way those who study Primitive stages should receive benefit and give benefit, in association with those who study such higher developments as Jurisprudence and Religious Societies."

"If this comprehensive scope is agreed upon, I anticipate great advantage from a Society which would associate together many of us who meet too seldom, although we are occupied only in different plots of the same great field."

From F. HOWARD COLLINS (*Author of "Epitome of the Synthetic Philosophy of Herbert Spencer."*)

"As my health will prevent me attending your Conference for the formation of a Sociological Society, I write to wish you every success in a movement which has, I think, potentialities of great importance and value as treating of matters which have so far received but little organised effort for their development,"



From the Rev. A. M. FAIRBAIRN (*Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford*).

"I am sorry I cannot be present at the Conference on the 29th, I wish I could; for my sympathies are all with you in the study of Sociology."

From the Rev. Professor FLINT (*Author of "The History of the Philosophy of History," &c.*).

"I regret that it is impossible for me to be present at the proposed Sociological Society Meeting in London on the 29th.

"I regard the formation of such a Society as very desirable, and the want of one with an appropriate literary organ as a very serious defect.

From T. C. HORSFALL (*President of Manchester Art Museum and University Settlement; President of Manchester and Salford Association for the Improvement of the Homes and Surroundings of the People*).

"I am extremely glad to learn that it is probable that a Sociological Society will be formed. Manchester, the town of which I know most, in common with all other manufacturing towns in Great Britain, merely from ignorance of the conditions necessary for human welfare, is rapidly destroying the best qualities of our race. I believe that nothing else could do so much to ensure that those conditions shall be established as the appointment of an able and zealous and well-trained man to a Chair of Sociology at the Owens College."

From Professor J. K. INGRAM (*formerly Professor of Economics in Trinity College, Dublin*).

"I shall be truly glad if your enterprise proves successful."

From E. RAY LANKESTER (*Director, Natural History Department, British Museum*).

"I regret I have not the time to assist in your Society (Sociological), with the objects of which I strongly sympathise."

From Professor J. S. MACKENZIE (*Professor of Philosophy, University College Cardiff*).

"I shall cordially do all that I can to help the movement."

From J. BASS MULLINGER, M.A. (*Lecturer in History, St. John's College, Cambridge*).

"I consider that, if carried into accomplishment, the projected Society will afford most valuable aid to that more scientific study and treatment of History which some of us, at least, are doing our best at Cambridge to bring about."

From the Rev. J. B. PATON, D.D. (*late Principal of the Congregational College, Nottingham*).

"Such a Society, I think, as you propose to form, will be of great value, especially at the present moment, when social questions are being pressed upon the public mind with much zeal and iteration, but sometimes I think in a manner to confuse rather than educate public opinion."

From Dr. PATRICK (*Editor of "Chambers' Encyclopædia"*).

"I am sure such a Society might do admirable and useful work."

From the Hon. BERTRAND RUSSELL (*Author of "The Principles of Mathematics," &c.*)

"I am strongly in favour of the objects of the proposed Society, particularly of the scientific study of Sociology."

From Professor W. R. SORLEY (*Professor of Moral Philosophy, Cambridge University*).

"I shall be glad to take part in the proposed Society for Sociology; and I am sorry that it will not be possible for me to be present at the meeting next Monday."

To the above citations of approval may be added the following extracts, from letters received after the Conference had been held:—

From Mr. FRANCIS GALTON.

"It gives me pleasure to send a small donation of £5 towards the cost of the preliminary stages in organizing the Sociological Society.  
... With all good wishes that you will establish and maintain a high standard of publication."

From Mrs. HUMPHREY WARD.

"I am much interested in the foundation of the Sociological Society, and wish it all success. I enclose a donation of £1 is."

From the BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

"There can be no doubt about the importance of the future that lies before the study of Sociology. From the names, your Society seems to have the prospect of encouraging it in an open-minded and unprejudiced manner, and I am very glad to welcome it."



From ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

"I am fully convinced of the need of a Sociological Society, but my own activities are so monopolised by the Zionist movement that I have no time even for causes with which I sympathise. Our scientific view of life has changed so much within the last half-century that not a few of our Sociological conceptions, with their practical consequences in life, must be in need of revision."

From Professor TÖNNIES (*of the University of Kiel*).

"It is with considerable satisfaction that I hear of the formation of a Sociological Society in England, for I have long been waiting for a symptom of a rise of the modern intellectual movement in that direction, especially in your country which has done so much to promote and to develop it. Among the wide range of subjects that presents itself to Sociological research and theory, I lay the greatest stress upon a truly scientific study and interpretation of History, which presupposes habits of unbiassed thinking not attainable otherwise but by a philosophical mind, which means in this case a firm Sociological standpoint. I therefore look with greatest interest upon what, according to the report in the *Times*, Mr. OSCAR BROWNING has said and communicated as a posthumous encouragement to your Society from the late Sir J. SEELEY, whose two works on 'The Expansion of England,' and on 'British Foreign Policy,' I highly value as contributions to a thorough-going investigation of the political side of modern social movements."

From Professor DURKHEIM (*Editor of "L'Année Sociologique," and Professor in the University of Paris*).

"It is with the greatest sympathy that I send my adhesion to the Sociological Society, about the formation of which you have informed me. If, as you propose to do, you succeed in grouping and bringing into relationship all serious workers,—that is to say all those who desire to extricate Sociology from the vague and literary generalities where it still too often halts, in order to devote themselves to definite and productive problems,—you will render signal service to our Science, and it is the duty of every one to try and help you to the utmost."

From Dr. WESTERMARCK (*University of Finland, Helsingfors*).

"I am extremely glad to hear of the proposal to form a Sociological Society, being sure that an English Society for the promotion of scientific and philosophical studies in Sociology will do excellent service to the new science."



## THE CONFERENCE.

At the Conference, held by permission, in the Rooms of the Royal Statistical Society on June 29th, about 50 persons were present, including the following:—Professors Adamson, Bosanquet, Hewins, Geddes, and Carveth Read; Dr. C. M. Douglas, M.P., Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Mr. E. W. Brabrook, C.B., Dr. J. H. Bridges, Mr. Oscar Browning, Miss Collet, Dr. A. C. Haddon, Mr. T. C. Horsfall, Mr. L. T. Hobhouse, Mr. J. A. Hobson, Mr. Benjamin Kidd, Mr. C. S. Loch, Dr. R. D. Roberts, Mr. J. M. Robertson, Mr. E. J. Urwick, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mrs. Sidney Webb, and Mr. J. Martin White.

The Right Hon. JAMES BRYCE, M.P., had conditionally promised to take the Chair, but an unexpected political engagement caused him to be in Scotland on the day of the meeting. In his absence the meeting was presided over by Mr. E. W. BRABROOK, C.B., Ex-President of the Folk-Lore Society, and President-elect of the Economic Section of the British Association.

The proceedings opened with the reading of the citations of approval given above, and the following letter from Mr. BRYCE:—

“To my great regret it will be impossible for me to take the chair on the 29th, as I am obliged to leave to-morrow for Scotland. I trust the proposed meeting will be well attended, and that the subject will be thoroughly discussed. The result of the previous discussion was to make me feel that before any further steps were taken it was necessary to have a clear conception of the precise sphere of action of the proposed Society, and to define its relation to the various departments of Sociological enquiry which are already covered by existing special societies. If you can find either some group of topics which these societies do not cover, or some aspect of the relations to one another of branches of Sociology which no special society can well deal with because it represents the connection between those branches and includes them in a wider connection, a considerable forward step will have been taken.”



The Chairman submitted the following motion:—

“This meeting resolves that a Society be formed for the promotion and organization of those studies which are increasingly pursued under the title of Sociology.”

He said:—It is suggested that I should propose the first resolution to you from the chair, and that some one in the body of the meeting should second it. I confess that I listened with a great deal of interest to the very weighty and important remarks which were contained in Mr. BRYCE's letter. I regret that it is not possible for him to be here to enforce those remarks. I strongly sympathize with the view he gives, that unless a new scientific Society actually fills a definite space, which is not filled up in any other way, it is almost criminal to add to the number of Scientific Societies unnecessarily. I therefore hope that all who are here present will thoroughly convince themselves that this proposed Society is necessary and will be necessary, before they assent to the resolution I am proposing. The proposed Sociological Society touches, as we have seen by the communications that have been read, upon many branches of science which are already provided for by various Societies. Sociology, in one of its recognised meanings, is one branch of the great all embracing science of man, for which the term Anthropology is sometimes used. It is also closely allied to Folk-Lore, and it has a close association with Economics and the work of the Statistical Society, in whose rooms we are met to-day. It touches, in one way or another, upon several branches of science, for which Societies now exist. The question now is, whether the proposed Society is necessary to fill up ground not occupied by these Societies? I recall that, years ago, I belonged to the old National Association for the promotion of Social Science, and I suppose we may consider that, to a certain extent, the Society we now propose to establish is, in part, the inheritor of the functions of that Society. which did good work in its time, and was very properly dissolved after the generation of great men who had established it had passed away. It is possible that the very fact that there are many Societies which undertake or have undertaken work which comes within the purview of the proposed Society is in itself a reason why the Sociological Society should be established, to gather together and render systematic the work which is now dispersed among so many. Since the old Social Science Association ceased to exist we have had what one might call the Grammar of Sociology provided in the magnificent work of Mr. HERBERT SPENCER, which is now completed, and in other treatises of great authority; and we are beginning the formal Study of Sociology with advantages that were not available in the old days. Taking all these things



into consideration as well as the excellent arguments in Mr. BRANFORD'S paper, which I need not now recapitulate, I hope that this meeting will feel that there is good work to be done by the Society, and will carry the resolution, as I venture to submit it to you, in the affirmative.

Dr. C. M. DOUGLAS, M.P., seconded the motion. He recommended the formation of such a Society as was proposed both on the ground of the need for organizing sociological research and also for the sake of helping to diffuse more scientific ideas in popular thought about political and social phenomena. He referred to the good work which had been done by a sociological society which formerly existed in Edinburgh—a city which, he said, Professor GEDDES had made a home of Sociology.

Dr. J. H. BRIDGES, in support of the motion, said:—We may admit, I think, with a previous speaker, that many features of the science with which this Society is to concern itself still remain in a somewhat embryonic condition, and are insufficiently defined. Some remarks that have been made have indeed suggested the doubt whether Sociology is entitled to be called a science at all. Clearly this is one of the first points—I should say myself it was the first point—for us to decide. Some may describe Sociology as a mere bundle of opinions on various subjects, more or less important, concerning man as a social being. Others, among whom I count myself, are convinced that certain important generalisations have been reached in the early part of last century, and have been since that time further developed, which, within certain limits—ill-defined limits, but none the less real—enable us to forecast future events; and prediction, here as elsewhere, is the test of science. The generalisations to which I refer are those reached by AUGUSTE COMTE in 1822, and developed by him and by others in the course of the following years. Students of MILL are, of course, well aware of the importance attributed by that thinker to the laws of social evolution of which I am speaking. In a Society of this kind it is obvious that all such generalisations, whether due to COMTE or to SPENCER, would be subjected to close investigation. And I should like further to suggest one or two practical principles which shall guide our proceedings, and prevent them from drifting, as our predecessors of the Social Science Association did undoubtedly drift, into the discussion of interesting specialities, often extremely useful, as to the construction of drains and chimney pots, or as to the best form of spelling-book. These are matters of much utility and importance, of which I should be sorry to speak with the slightest disregard. But the discussion of them will not help us in arriving at any conclusion as to the laws of equilibrium and



the laws of growth in human societies, and thus enable us to predict within certain limits the tendencies of the future, and the degree to which it may be found possible to modify those tendencies by human effort. One more suggestion I will venture to make as to our method of study; and I will illustrate it by an analogy with the allied Science of Biology. If we could place ourselves back a hundred years or more, at the time when the Science of Biology as a distinct department of research was just beginning to exist, we should have found most men agreed that the physical nature of man formed the central object of that science; and that the principal value of the comparative method, as applied by men like JOHN HUNTER and LAMARCK in the study of lower organisms, lay in the light which it threw on the highest of organisms—man. So I would urge that in this new Science of Sociology the study of the lower grades of social life, of pre-historic or savage man, should be, not indeed neglected—far from it, but should be valued chiefly for whatever light it may throw on the more complicated and more fully evolved social status in which civilised man of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries lives and has his being. If our Society is to be of value, it must face, in a scientific spirit, but fearlessly and frankly, the burning questions of the present day.

Dr. A. C. HADDON, supporting the motion, said:—While the multiplication of societies is generally to be deprecated on account of the duplication of official machinery and of the time expended in organization and in executive business, yet it appears to me those inquiries which are grouped under the term Sociology stand greatly in need of some co-ordination. Sociology, at all events in this country, is in an inchoate condition. That it is a distinct branch of science we firmly believe, but its position and scope require definition and illustration, and until this is done students of the Humanities and Sciences will look askance at the new candidate for admission into the fellowship of learned studies. We claim for Sociology a definite place at the same time within and without the studies of Biology, Anthropology, History, Economics, and Philosophy. The Biologist and Anthropologist are concerned with investigation in the field, accurate description and dispassionate comparison. The science man then hands over his material and the conclusions he has deduced therefrom to the historian that he may trace the metamorphoses which have modified institutions in various times and climes, and note the changes that have arisen from within and those induced from without. When the historian has completed his consecutive stories, and his comparisons and deductions, he transmits his results to the economist who attempts to apply the information so gained to the problems of the present day. It is his business to judge how far the social experiments that have been tried since



man was man, and indeed long before that, bear upon existing conditions, and before new experiments are tried he should satisfy himself whether they may not have been tried before, and with what results. By noting the direction which social evolution has taken in the past he should be in a better position to forecast the lines upon which communities and institutions are likely to develop in the future. The philosopher doubtless will be glad to receive fresh data, and by garnering the experience of many minds and of many communities he will be in a better position to draw his conclusions. Thus the ethnologist collects the material, the historian weaves it into a connected story, it is applied practically by the economist, and dealt with theoretically by the philosopher. The students of each of these several intellectual activities has his own work to do, there may be some overlapping at times, but each investigator has his limits fairly well defined, and on the whole it is best for him to keep pretty well within that boundary. What we now require is a bringing together of the biologists, anthropologists, historians, economists, and philosophers, who are interested in the origin, distribution, and working of all social institutions. In the past we have been too individualistic, let us now gain those benefits which sociability confers on those who assemble themselves together. Once this is agreed upon, then the decision can be made whether it is desirable to found an entirely new society or whether it may not be possible to develop one side of an existing institution, and so avoid those objections to which I alluded in my opening remarks.

Mr. J. MARTIN WHITE, supporting the motion, said:—The special reason why I support the motion is, that this Society and a project I have in view will be mutually helpful in promoting Sociological Study. If you forgive me referring to it, I should like to say that when interested in a political contest a dozen years ago I was much struck by the great Sociological ignorance, not only of the public generally, but of most Members of Parliament. I made some provisions to start a Chair dealing with the customs, and institutions and ideals of different peoples throughout the world, and their bearing on practical life, but the inaction of the University Colleges I was interested in made me hold my hand. In London I have recently been trying to get into connection with the University, which is far behind in its Philosophical equipment, yet which seems one of the most desirable centres in Britain for Sociological Study; and only this spring my friend, Professor GEDDES, whom I am glad to see here, gave me an introduction to Dr. ROBERTS, with whom I discussed what might be done to start Sociological teaching in the University if I should provide some funds. Just about that time Mr. BRANFORD came to discuss the Edinburgh School of Sociology, and the possibility of starting a Journal of Sociology



here. I told him what I had been doing; and the result was, after we saw Mr. BRYCE, Mr. LOCH, Mr. HADDON, and others, on the one hand a meeting of a few to take steps to promote this Conference. On the other hand, I have offered the Principal of the University of London £1,000 to start a preliminary course or courses in Sociology. The proposed Society and the proposed Lectures are of course independent; but I think the University would be greatly assisted by the existence of a Society bringing together all interested in Social Science and Philosophy, whilst the Society would be helped indirectly by the University teaching. The University and a Society working at the same group of studies would advance Sociological knowledge and thought greatly more than either could alone. I trust you will pardon my brief statement of the history of the movement, but I thought it might interest and encourage you, and I wished to point out how much you are indebted to Mr. BRANFORD, more even than his excellent pamphlet indicates. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Professor HEWINS, speaking in support of the motion, maintained that if this Society were formed it would make for the co-ordination of Sociological work already in progress.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON said:—I have great pleasure in associating myself with the general attitude of welcome to the new Society; and I may say, with regard to what I understood to be the suggestions of Dr. HADDON, that I do not see how any other Society *can* do the work that is proposed to be done by this. None of those named does any work that can be pronounced directly Sociological; and while we on our part should certainly derive help from the work of some of them, for instance, the Folk-Lore Society, it would not be our business to make fresh researches in Folk-Lore. Of the old Social Science Association it used to be said that it was certainly very Social, but it never got the length of Science; and it finally died for that very reason. Our country comes very late into the field in this movement. Others, like myself, have doubtless often wondered why, when most other civilised countries have Chairs of Sociology, and the United States in particular quite a number, Great Britain has not a single one. But I am inclined to think that we may gain by being late. In the American Universities, the Professor of Sociology, I am told, is apt to be warned off their ground by the Professors of Law and Economics and History, and he often, in consequence, limits himself to the handling of concrete social questions, so that his department is sometimes called that of



Drink, Drainage, and Divorce. Here he approximates to our old Social Science Association; and I am fain to hope that by coming later into the field our Chairs that are to be will be freer to deal with Sociology broadly and scientifically. I should like, having this opportunity, to add my testimony to Mr. WHITE's as to the debt we all owe to Mr. BRANFORD for setting this new Society agoing.

Mr. J. A. HOBSON said:—In expressing my approval of the proposal, I should like to say that it seems to me that the previous speakers have already shown that the ground which it is proposed to cover by this Society has not already been covered. The plea for Sociology as a science co-ordinating the other sciences which are designated social sciences does not exhaust its claim; it is necessary also to unify and to utilise the results of the several social studies as to reach wider laws of social growth, and to produce a new fund of knowledge. I was interested in what Mr. ROBERTSON said as to the attitude of American Economists, because I have had recently some opportunity of speaking with American Economists and Sociologists, and I found there was a decided abatement of the animosity which Economists formerly displayed to the science of Sociology. I think it has become recognised by many of the abler Economists of America, that so far from being hostile to the work, Sociology is of clear assistance to them in demarcating more clearly the sphere of politics, ethics, and other social studies. I know of no greater service, which I think would be attained by the formation of a Society, than that it would serve more clearly to demarcate the other studies which are social in their bearing, and so prevent overlapping, and produce a better economy and mental energy in those studies. I have the greatest possible pleasure in supporting a proposal which seems to me to be fraught with great value in the future.

Mr. BENJAMIN KIDD said:—I have listened to this discussion with great interest. I think, if we endeavour to form a Sociological Society, that we ought to start with a certain amount of self-respect. To my mind the case is made out that there is a requirement for a Society of the kind that is proposed. While some of us may conceivably stop short of admitting that there is as yet a fully accredited science of Society, there are few of us, I think, who do not feel that there ought to be such a science, and that it is only a question of time until such a science is established. If we admit so much, we have admitted all that is required for our purpose. The more one studies the development of Societies and of civilizations the more one comes to perceive that it is the social factor which is in the ascendant in



the evolution of the race, and that it is as a member of an effective type of society that man is principally made subject to the law of natural selection. The study of human progress is consequently mainly the study of the causes and principles contributing to social efficiency in the largest sense. This is equivalent to saying that it must be mainly Sociological. Here, however, I think that we may possibly come into touch with our first real difficulty as a Scientific Society. The causes contributing to such a result are generally closely associated with the most deep-seated habits, opinions, convictions, and beliefs of men. To discuss such matters as they affect the development of society, undoubtedly calls for some training of mind, and for considerable devotion to the ideals of science, and to the true scientific spirit. The tendency of the time, a tendency which I should hope to see it made an object of the new Society to encourage, is to separate the practical science of social affairs from the pure science of society. Yet a pure science of society ought to be regarded as entirely apart from our private opinions. We ought to be able to discuss its laws and principles just as we discuss the laws of motion of any kind. I do not hide from myself the difficulty of such an endeavour; and when one looks round this room and sees the representatives of so many warring schools of opinion, often holding ideas and ideals mutually antagonistic, and even mutually destructive, one does not need to enlarge on it. But it is a difficulty which I think need not be taken to be insurmountable. It has been said that in this country we are behind others in giving its due place to Sociology as a subject of scientific study. I think, however, that, now we have approached the subject, we come to the work with many special qualifications for it. The historic process in this country has been not only very full, but it has been rich and fruitful in its lessons. The stress out of which we have come has given us an unusual sense of tolerance towards the opinions of others. There is possibly no opinion and no institution in Church or in State in this country which cannot be pointed to as a standing subject of challenge. All this has affected the national habit of thought and the national habit in philosophy, and I think it is likely to stand us in good stead in the endeavour to place the study of Sociology on a scientific footing. It may, perhaps, be allowed, in addition to this, that a further claim may be put forward for the systematised study of Sociology amongst us. It has been in this country that the Darwinian theory of organic evolution by natural selection has been propounded. This theory has widely and radically influenced the sciences dealing with life, and it is likely to considerably affect our knowledge of the principles governing the evolution of human society. The principles which the adherents of the Darwinian theory seek to establish have been to an unusual degree studied and discussed by competent observers in



this country. I think the close and first-hand knowledge of the subject which has thus been obtained will aid us materially. It may, perhaps, be distinguished later that it has given to our study of society a depth and vigour, and a scientific grasp of principles which will in large measure compensate for any delay there has been in taking the subject systematically in hand at a less mature stage.

Dr. ROBERTS said:—I feel sure that the meeting has already heard as much as it is necessary for it to hear in order to accept or reject the Resolution. In moving that Resolution, the Chairman asked everyone present to define for himself the position this Society would take and the part it would play. Most of the speakers have dealt with that point. I am not an expert, and have no opinion to give upon its exact form, or upon its exact limits; but speaking as an outsider, the matter presents itself to me in this way. I presume that everyone here believes that Sociological study should be encouraged, stimulated, and promoted in every possible way, and it is because I believe that the establishment of a Society of this kind will tend to encourage Sociological study that I am in favour of the proposal. I think it will emphasize the Sociological point of view. It may cover the ground of some of the other Societies, but it will present the materials from a different point of view, and that is, it seems to me, a strong reason for the establishment of this Society. What we have heard from Mr. White is a matter on which we may congratulate ourselves. I think that his munificent gift to the University of London for the purpose of establishing a Lectureship in the subject will be of immense value, going side by side with any work the new Society may do in promoting, establishing, and extending this study.

Mrs. SIDNEY WEBB said :—One practical difficulty in establishing this Society will be its relation to existing Societies which deal with separate sections of Sociology, such as the Royal Economic Society, the Royal Statistical Society, the Society for Comparative Legislation, and the Folk Lore Society. Probably nearly every person actively interested in Sociology is already a member of one or other of these organisations. It is of the greatest importance that we should avoid making the Sociological Society merely one more competing organisation. It should assume a character of a more or less Federal body: that is to say, we should strive to enrol in it the very best brains of the Royal Economic Society, the Royal Statistical Society, and all the others. We ought to enable members of those Societies to join the new organisation with great ease, and to aim at securing them all. I do not know whether it would be possible, when you come to consider the circumstances of the Society, to make some sort



of arrangement by which people, who are already paying their guineas to the Economic and Statistical and Comparative Law and other Societies, might be allowed to enter the Sociological Society at a payment of not more than, say, 2s. 6d. per annum. I am speaking with impartiality. I do not, myself, belong to any of these Societies, and should not benefit personally by the suggestion. But there are a great many people, especially young people, to whom an extra guinea a year is of great consideration. Many of the very best workers cannot afford to multiply their annual subscriptions. I cannot help thinking that it might smooth matters a good deal, and prevent jealousy and friction with the councils and secretaries of existing Societies, if you can show that you are not trying to cut the ground from under their feet, or to entice their members away from them. On the contrary, by offering to the members of such existing Societies the privilege of joining ours at a nominal fee, we should be not only binding together all active workers in the Sociological field, but also actually increasing the attractiveness of the existing organisations whose work we seek not to interfere with but to promote.

The CHAIRMAN: The suggestion is one worthy of the greatest consideration, and the proper time to consider it is when we come to the Committee stage.

The CHAIRMAN then put the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and adopted unanimously.

Mr. OSCAR BROWNING then moved the second resolution. He said: I rise with great pleasure to propose the resolution:

"That those who have consented to join the General Committee for the formation of a Sociological Society, be hereby constituted a Committee for that purpose."

In support of it I will say a few words as to the reasons which induced me to join this Society, to hail its formation, and to attend this meeting. I have been for a number of years a Teacher of History at Cambridge, a school of history which finds its conclusion in the Historical Tripos. This tripos was originally founded by Sir John Seeley, a man of genius, on a special basis which is, perhaps, not fully understood. He was of opinion that history should not be studied by itself for its own sake, but in relation to what may be called the Sociological Sciences, as explaining and interpreting them. He has often said to me that



the Historical Tripos of those days should rather have been called a Sociological or a Political Tripos than an Historical Tripos. The school in which I am a teacher still, in spite of many changes, preserves something of its original aspect, and I make bold to say, in the presence of the Cambridge men who are here present, that our school has been successful just so far as it has been Sociological, and unsuccessful just so far as it has not been Sociological. There is a close connection between Sociology and history, and the most important part of the office of the historian, lies in the employment of Sociological information, and the organisation of Sociological Science. Now, the enemies of this view of history are those who claim to advocate what they call "pure history" or "scientific history," that is history regarded from the antiquarian and philological point of view, the examination of ancient documents and the establishment of facts without regard to their significance. What is called pure or scientific history is concerned with events alone, and does not attempt to trace the course of man through the ages, or to draw from the future the lesson which may be derived from the past; and this is, in my opinion, the true scientific history. History is the root of Sociology, and Sociology the fruit of history, and he who grasps this truth has the strongest claim to be called a scientific Historian. It is from Sociology that history derives its value, and without that it has no value whatever. I therefore hail the establishment of this Society because it is calculated to bring this view of history prominently before the public mind, whatever else we may achieve. I trust that it will have the effect of placing before the minds of English students the true view of history which, though held by many, is not generally accepted, and in this way we may make history the foundation of a sound and vigorous education. For these reasons I take special interest in the establishment of this Society, and beg to move the adoption of the resolution,

Mr. L. T. HOBHOUSE, in seconding the resolution, said that the present time seemed eminently fitted for the attempt to revive the systematic study of Sociology. The history of the science during the previous century had been very much like the history of other sciences in their beginnings. There had been, first, the epoch of great generalisations—generalisations made, it might be, too categorically and on insufficient data. Then the work of criticism began. The accumulation of material supplied by the anthropologist and the historian had not always born out the early generalisation to the letter, and the result had been that the theoretical side of the science had incurred an undue and unjust amount of discredit. People ceased to believe in any scientific theory of society, but the vacuum thus created was only too readily filled. The empty mind, swept clear of all scientific



methods, was speedily filled with seven devils of sciolism. The pseudo-scientific treatment of questions affecting the bases of social ethics was never more popular than at present, and to it was largely due the deterioration of moral form in the discussion of public affairs which was admitted and deplored by nearly all thinking men. In endeavouring to reconstitute Sociology in its true position, the Society would therefore be doing something to meet a great practical need.

The motion was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN called upon Professor GEDDES to move the next resolution, and suggested that Professor GEDDES should favour the meeting with some accounts of his efforts to organize Sociological teaching in Edinburgh.

Professor GEDDES then proposed the following motion:—

“That the following be nominated a Sub-Committee, with powers to add to their numbers, to consider the question of the scope and aims of the Society, to draft a constitution, to take other measures that may seem advisable to forward the movement, and to report generally to a meeting of the Committee in the autumn:—Right Hon. JAMES BRYCE, M.P., Dr. C. M. DOUGLAS, M.P., Dr. A. C. HADDON, Mr. C. S. LOCH, Dr. R. D. ROBERTS, Professor SULLY, Mr. E. J. URWICK, Mr. J. MARTIN WHITE, and Mr. VICTOR V. BRANFORD.”

Professor GEDDES said that all must have felt that the adhesions which had been announced to the proposed Society were not only encouragingly numerous, but extraordinarily varied; including men of the most differing special studies, the most divergent philosophical and religious beliefs, the most opposing political parties. In view of all this, the first thought of each member of this Committee, as he looked around, or of his friends and ordinary associates as they would see his name upon its long and representative list, might well be *Que diable allait-il faire dans cette galère!* Yet this very heterogeneity was evidence not only of the wide intellectual sympathies and the secretarial tact which had brought them together, but a hopeful augury for the new Society; which was obviously, from the very first, free from preponderant control by any one party or school, and open to the candid and impartial examination of the existing ideas and to the proposed contributions of each and all. The Society would thus offer from the outset a well-stocked market place, a busy clearinghouse for social ideas of many kinds, many sources,



and many lands ; it would offer a symposium of courteous yet frank discussion, a means of comparison and co-ordination of points of view hitherto separate, and hence it might be a centre of reconciliation of theses hitherto opposed. Our many perspectives must become mutually more intelligible as we can refer them to any cardinal points of common agreement, still more to that systematic mapping out of the fields of social science, which previous speakers have shown we must attempt ; and even differing routes of action may seem less discordant as we meet to explain them to each other upon our respective charts of the social voyage. To this harmony of social studies the proposed consideration of the aims and functions of the proposed Society could not but contribute ; the discussion of the subject-matter of social science, that of its methodology also, being thus fairly opened anew. In reply to the Chairman's invitation to give some account of those beginnings of Sociological studies in Edinburgh with which he had been concerned during the past fifteen years, he would briefly say that the Edinburgh Summer Meeting, with its geographical and biological, its historical and sociological courses, and its international representation of teachers as well as students, had constantly served as a field of educational experiment towards the development of distinct, yet correlated schools, of Nature Study and of Sociology. Each of these was kept duly inductive and practical by constant open-air observation and field work upon the geography and the natural and social history of the Edinburgh district, happily a very representative one ; yet each was made reflective also, as well as observant, by a more theoretic interest in organic and social evolution. Both lines of concrete investigation thus practically unite as Regional Survey, which is the essential stuff of Geography and of concrete Sociology ; while the student of natural evolution finds his work needed towards that rational interpretation of the human world, which is the ideal of abstract Sociology. Thus had gradually arisen beginnings, of course imperfect and immature, of a Sociological Observatory, in the "Outlook Tower," with its incipient Regional Surveys and Regional Records upon various levels—from those of immediate prospect and of City, to Scotland, Empire, and Language, to Europe, Orient, and World. To these had become also attached, from time to time, some corresponding beginnings of a Sociological Laboratory, particularly upon the level of City, though sometimes venturing beyond. The Edinburgh School of Sociology was thus beginning to attract a considerable number of Sociological students, and these of many interests and aims, from the concrete specialist of regional detail to the professed philosopher ; with some social workers also, of various activities and ideals, social and political. Since such beginnings of Sociological inquiry, teaching, and practice had survived, even on the whole developed, in Edin-



burgh, there could be no doubt of a far larger membership and field for a Sociological Society and for a School of Sociology in London; all the more if these movements could in some measure be associated from the outset, as had indeed been already so substantially argued for earlier in the meeting.

Mr. C. H. GRINLING seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

On the motion of Mr. E. J. URWICK, a vote of thanks was awarded to the Royal Statistical Society for kindly granting the use of their Rooms for the meeting.

The meeting closed with the award of a vote of thanks, moved by Mr. J. M. WHITE, to the Chairman for presiding.



## REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

With the exception of Mr. BRYCE and Professor SULLY, all those nominated to the Sub-Committee were able to serve on the same. Dr. SCOTT KELTIE, Professor GEDDES, Mr. BENJAMIN KIDD, Mr. L. T. HOBHOUSE and Mrs. SYDNEY WEBB were co-opted as members of the Sub-Committee.

Several meetings were held, and as a result of the deliberations and discussions the following statement of the scope and aims of the Society, terms and conditions of membership, character of programme and rules of the Society were drawn up. A few minor modifications were adopted at the instance of the General Committee (*vide* page 38). These modifications are embodied in the statement as here given.

### SCOPE AND AIMS OF THE SOCIETY.

The aims of the Sociological Society are scientific, educational, and practical. It seeks to promote investigation, and to advance education in the Social Sciences in their various aspects and applications.

Its field covers the whole phenomena of society. The origin and development, the decay and extinction of societies, their structure and classification, their internal functions and interaction have to be observed and compared; and all this with increasing precision and completeness. The many standpoints from which social phenomena may be considered have thus all to be utilized. In this way the Society affords the common ground on which workers from all fields and schools may profitably meet—geographer and naturalist, anthropologist and archæologist, historian and philologist, psychologist and moralist, all contributing their results towards a fuller Social Philosophy, including the natural and civil history of man, his achievements and his ideals.

This conception of social evolution involves a clearer valuation of the conditions and forces which respectively hinder or help development, which make towards degeneration or towards progress. The physician and the alienist, the criminologist and the jurist, have here again their common meeting-ground with hygienist and educationist, with philanthropist, social reformer and politician, with journalist and cleric.

Such mutual understanding among different workers must obviously tend to promote a clearer delimitation of respective fields, and a mutual suggestiveness towards methods of cultivation



also—in other words, an extending division of labour, an increasing co-operation.—But these fields are the aspects or sub-divisions of Sociology, both pure and applied; these methods, with their corresponding nomenclature and notations, have to be compared and unified to furnish the methods of Sociology.

The place of Sociology among the Sciences thus comes more clearly into view; and the growing body of organized social knowledge may thus claim its place not only in the scheme of the logician and the synthesis of the philosopher, but in the education of the liberal professions and in the councils of the practical world.

### CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Membership of the Society is open to all who are interested in the promotion of the scientific study of social phenomena.

The rate of subscription has been fixed at £1 1s. (26 francs, \$5, 21 marks) per annum.

The payment for life membership is £10 10s. (260 francs, \$50, 210 marks).

After the list of Original Members is closed, election to Membership will be made subject to the approval of the Council.

Libraries and other Corporate Bodies are admissible as members.

### PROGRAMME OF THE SOCIETY.

The Society will prosecute its work by means customary to an efficiently organized learned society, namely, Meetings for Papers and Discussions, the Collection of relevant periodical and book Literature, and, at as early an opportunity as possible, the publication of a Journal.

It has been suggested that an endeavour should be made to hold meetings for papers and discussion in joint Conference with those societies which deal with special aspects of social phenomena.

### LIBRARY AND BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The great output of specifically Sociological Literature which has characterized the past two or three decades—more particularly on the Continent and in America—is not adequately represented even in the largest libraries in this country. There does not seem to be any institution in this country where a student of Sociology can at present consult a complete file of the leading journals of Sociology. To collect and maintain for reference an adequate library of Sociological books and periodicals is one of the pressing duties before the Society. A



scarcely less urgent task is the compilation of a bibliography of Sociological publications. The Society has already received as gifts a number of Sociological works.

### PUBLICATION OF A JOURNAL.

This country is alone amongst the leading nations in having no scientific journal devoted exclusively to Sociological studies. Such journals, however, can hardly be expected to be self-supporting, and the issue of such a periodical at first involves a considerable, though it is to be hoped, diminishing outlay. Offers of collaboration in the production of a journal have been made by eminent writers, both in this country and abroad.

Should funds permit, the Society would also undertake other publications. There are, for instance, not a few foreign Sociological works of the first importance urgently demanding translation.

### PROMOTION OF SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES.

While many foreign Universities have established Chairs and Lectureships in Sociology, the subject as such, has, up to the present, been unrepresented in the Universities of this country. The offer of £1,000 to London University by one of the founders of the Sociological Society towards establishing courses in Sociology will, it may be hoped, be a means of reinforcing the attempts which the Society will make to awaken interest in Sociological studies in the Universities and Colleges of this country.

Various attempts have been made to apply systematically to the development of Sociology those organized instruments of research (Observatory, Laboratory, Museum, etc.) which have so effectively aided the progress of the physical and natural sciences. It will be one of the objects of the Sociological Society to investigate such initiatives as those of the Musée Social in Paris, the Institut de Sociologie in Brussels, the Outlook Tower in Edinburgh, and the Laboratory of Sociology in Palermo. The Society will examine into the effectiveness of such apparatus and institutions for Research, and, if advisable, will advocate and encourage the development of these and the promotion of similar initiatives elsewhere.

### LIBRARY AND PUBLISHING FUND.

The efficient working of the Society will depend in large measure upon its general ability to raise considerable funds in addition to the ordinary subscription of members. In order to raise the money urgently required for the purchase of books and periodicals, and for the issue of the Journal, an appeal is made for special subscriptions, donations and gifts.



While the Society aims at being self-supporting, its necessarily heavy initial capital outlays, its low subscription, and yet, in all likelihood, its limited membership, compel an appeal to the generosity of individual members to supplement their subscription by an initial donation, or by an addition to their annual subscription. Leaving ordinary expenditure to be met by the annual subscriptions, the following estimate gives approximately the minimum initial capital sum it is desirable to raise for the efficient establishment of the Society :

(1) Initial Expenses—(Printing, Postages, and Clerical Assistance) - - -	£100
(2) Reference Library - - -	£2,000
(3) Publication Fund—including estimated deficit on Journal for, say, 3 years -	£1,000
(4) Research and Lecture Fund, etc. (say)-	£2,000
Total - - -	<u>£5,100</u>

The following sums have been already promised or received :—

Mr. J. Martin White - - - - -	£100	0	0
Mr. G. Dawes Hicks - - - - -	5	5	0
Mr. Francis Galton - - - - -	5	0	0
Mr. T. C. Horsfall - - - - -	5	0	0
V. Lady Welby - - - - -	5	0	0
Mrs. Winkworth - - - - -	5	0	0
Mr. R. A. Yerburch - - - - -	2	2	0
Mr. G. T. Pilcher - - - - -	2	2	0
Professor Mavor - - - - -	1	1	0
Professor J. W. Adamson - - - - -	1	1	0
Mrs. Humphrey Ward - - - - -	1	1	0
Mr. G. Maberley - - - - -	1	1	0
Mr. Mark H. Judge - - - - -	0	10	6



## RULES OF THE SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

### I.—OBJECTS.

The aims of the Sociological Society are scientific, educational, and practical. It seeks to promote and guide investigation and to advance education in social science in its various aspects and applications.

### II.—CONSTITUTION.

The Society shall consist of Members, Honorary Members, and Corresponding Members. Women shall be eligible for election as Members of the Society, and no expression hereinafter used shall be held to debar them from exercising any right or privilege of the Society, or from filling any office to which they may be elected.

### III.—ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Any person who desires to further the aims of the Society and shall be approved by the Council, shall be admitted as a Member of the Society.

### IV.—ADMISSION OF HONORARY AND CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

At certain specified Meetings of the Council any Member thereof may propose, for admission as an Honorary Member, a foreigner or British subject of distinction, delivering at the same time a written statement of the qualifications of the person proposed. The Corresponding Members shall be elected by the Council from persons who are willing to aid the Society in any of its objects. Neither Honorary nor Corresponding Members shall be required to pay any subscription to the funds of the Society.

### V.—TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Ordinary Members shall pay an Annual Subscription of One Guinea (26 francs ; 5 dollars ; 21 marks), due in advance on January 1st in each year. The terms for Life Membership are £10 10s. (260 francs, 50 dollars, 210 marks). The Council shall have power to reduce or remit Subscriptions in the case of members of cognate Societies, or in other special cases in which such reduction shall appear necessary, or expedient, and to invite other Societies to grant similar privileges to members of the Sociological Society.

### VI.—OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

The Officers of the Society shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, one or more Treasurers, a Secretary, and such other Officers as the Council from time to time may appoint. All the honorary officials shall retire annually and be re-eligible.

### VII.—COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY.

The Council of the Society shall consist of its honorary officers and not more than 30 ordinary members, elected annually. The Council shall make such regulations as may be necessary for the transaction of its own business.



**VIII.—NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NEW MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY.**

Prior to the Annual General Meeting the Council shall nominate Members whom they recommend for election as officers of the Society, or as ordinary Members of the Council. Any two Members of the Society may also nominate any Member for election either as an officer of the Society or as an Ordinary Member of the Council, provided that the nomination be made in writing, and be delivered to the Secretary not less than one month prior to the Annual General Meeting. A list of all nominations made as aforesaid shall be sent by post to every Member of the Society, at his last recorded address, not less than fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Any Member voting shall indicate for whom he votes by placing his initials against the name of any person whose name is included in the list, and may either return the list to the Secretary, or deliver it to the Scrutineers at the Annual General Meeting. The elections shall be made by a majority of the votes thus cast.

**IX.—EXTRAORDINARY VACANCIES.**

On the occurrence of an extraordinary vacancy in the office of President, or of any other Officer of the Society, the Council may, at its next Meeting, choose by ballot, and by a majority of those present, a new President, or other Officer of the Society, to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

**X.—COMMITTEES.**

The Council shall have power to appoint Committees of Members or others and also an Executive Committee of their own body.

**XI.—MEETINGS OF COUNCIL.**

A Meeting of the Council shall be held as frequently as the business of the Society may require, and at such dates as the Council shall from time to time appoint. But the President, or any nine Members of the Council may, by letter to the Secretary, require a Special Meeting to be called. At any Meeting of the Council, nine members shall form a quorum.

**XII.—ORDINARY MEETINGS.**

The Ordinary Meetings of the Society shall be held monthly, from November to May. Every member shall have the privilege of introducing visitors at any of the Ordinary Meetings, on writing their names in the book provided for that purpose.

**XIII.—GENERAL MEETINGS.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in January for the purpose of receiving and adopting the Balance Sheet and Report of the Council for the year, for the



election of the Council, and for any other business in connexion with the Society that may require the decision of the General Meeting.

The Council may convene a Special General Meeting for any purpose whenever they deem it necessary, and shall do so on the requisition of one-fifth of the members.

#### **XIV.—EXPULSION OF MEMBERS.**

The Council shall have the right, by a two-thirds majority of the whole Council, to expel from membership of the Society, after not less than four weeks' notice to him of the intention to do so, any Member, or Honorary, or Corresponding Member whose conduct may be considered as likely to reflect upon the character of the Society.

#### **XV.—TRUSTEES.**

The Council may from time to time elect two or more Trustees in whom the property of the Society may be vested. The Trustees are eligible to any other Honorary offices of the Society.

#### **XVI.—LIBRARIES AND CORPORATE BODIES.**

The Council shall be empowered to admit Libraries, or other corporate bodies, as subscribers for the publications of the Society, and to define from time to time the conditions of such admissions.

#### **XVII.—AFFILIATED SOCIETIES AND LOCAL BRANCHES.**

The Council shall have power to admit to affiliation other Societies on such terms and conditions as may be determined. Branches of the Society may be formed by the sanction of the Council subject to such conditions as the Council may deem fit. The Society may appoint local representatives and Committees in suitable centres in this country, in the colonies, or in foreign countries for the purpose of furthering the objects of the Society.

#### **XVIII.—EQUIPMENT FUND.**

There shall be a Special Fund, or Funds, for the purchase of books and periodicals, for the issue of publications, and for other purposes necessary to the adequate equipment of the Society.

#### **XIX.—AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS.**

The Accounts of the Society shall annually be audited by a professional auditor appointed by the Council.

#### **XX.—ALTERATION OF RULES.**

No alteration shall be made in the Rules of the Society except at the Annual Meeting, or at a Special Meeting, and after due intimation has been given of the proposed alteration in the notice calling the Meeting, and then only if approved by two-thirds of the Members present and voting.



## CONSTITUTIVE MEETING OF THE GENERAL (PROVISIONAL) COMMITTEE.

The meeting of the General (Provisional) Committee to consider the Report of the Sub-Committee was held, by permission, at the Rooms of the Royal Statistical Society, on November 20th.

Mr. E. W. Brabrook took the chair, and the attendance included:—Rev. J. B. Booth, Rev. Frank Campbell, Dr. C. M. Douglas, M.P., Dr. A. C. Haddon, Rev. J. E. Hand, Mr. T. E. Harvey, Mr. L. T. Hobhouse, Mr. J. A. Hobson, Mr. T. C. Horsfall, Mr. Mark H. Judge, Mr. Benjamin Kidd, Mr. C. S. Loch, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Mr. S. H. Swinny, Mr. J. Martin White, and Mr. M. B. Williams.

Letters regretting absence (and most of them expressing general approval of the terms of the Report) were read from:—Professor Adamson, Dr. J. H. Bridges, Dr. Bisschop, Sir John Cockburn, the Rev. Professor Collins, Mr. F. Howard Collins, Professor Geddes, Mr. G. Dawes Hicks, Professor Loria, Mr. T. R. Marr, Mr. J. Bass Mullinger, Professor Sadler, Mr. A. T. Shearman, Lord Stamford, Mr. Franklin Thomasson, Mr. E. J. Urwick, Dr. Westermarck, and Mr. E. A. Whittuck.

A letter was read from Mr. Francis Galton, expressing approval of the formation of the Society and enclosing a donation of £5 towards the preliminary expenses of organising the Society.

Donations to the Library and Publishing Fund were announced from Lady Welby, Mr. T. C. Horsfall, and Professor Adamson.

A letter was read from Monsieur Raoul de la Grasserie offering to present to the Society copies of his works on Sociology.

The Rules, as drawn up by the Sub-Committee, were considered and discussed in detail. A few minor alterations were agreed to, and the Report was then adopted as the finding of the General (Provisional) Committee. [The alterations are embodied in the Rules as printed on pages 35—37.]

It was decided to postpone to a further meeting, the election of a Council and other Honorary Officers, and in the meantime to administer the Society during the stages of preliminary organization by means of an Executive Committee, elected from the General (Provisional) Committee. [The names of the Executive Committee will be found on page 5.]

Mr. Branford was appointed to act as Secretary and Treasurer *pro tem.*

On the motion of the Chairman, the members of the Sub-Committee were cordially thanked for their services in preparing and submitting the Report.

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding and to the Statistical Society for the use of their Rooms.