

Statutes of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, of London.

Contributors

Royal Society of Medicine (Great Britain)

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STATUTES

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CHAPTER I.

OF THE ELECTION AND ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

I.—EVERY Candidate for admission into the Society, shall be proposed and recommended by three or more Members, who shall deliver to one of the Secretaries, a paper, signed by themselves, specifying the Christian and Surname of such person, together with his rank in the profession, department of practice, and usual place of residence, all which shall be certified from their personal acquaintance with him.

II.—Every recommendation shall be hung up in the common meeting room of the Society, for three successive meetings, exclusive of that on which it was presented, and that on which the ballot for election shall take place.

III.—No person shall be declared elected, unless he have in his favour four-fifths of the members voting.

IV.—Every person elected a Member, shall have immediate notice of his Election sent to him, by one of the Secretaries; and shall appear for his Admission, on or before the fourth ordinary meeting of the Society after his Election; or within such further time as shall be granted by the Council, on special application to them for that purpose; otherwise his Election shall be void.

V.—The admission of any Member into the Society, shall be at some meeting thereof, in manner and form following, he

having first paid the admission Fee, and subscribed the obligation; viz. The President, taking him by the hand, shall say these words: "I do, by the authority, and in the name of the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, admit you a Member thereof."

VI.—The Election of every person into the Society, with the time thereof, shall be recorded in the Journal Book.

VII.—If it appear upon the ballot, that the person proposed is not admitted a Member, no notice shall be taken thereof in the Minutes.

VIII.—Every Member who intends to propose any person to be a Member of the Society, shall, before such person be proposed, make known to him the nature of the obligation to be subscribed, on the event of his being elected; and also the sum which is to be paid for Admission Money, and the rate of annual payments for the use of the Society.

IX.—Gentlemen who have eminently distinguished themselves in sciences connected with medicine, but who are not of the Medical Profession, or do not practise therein, shall be eligible as honorary Members.

X.—The number of honorary Members shall be limited to twelve.

XI.—The proposition of any gentleman to be an honorary Member, shall be by a vote of the Council.

XII.—The Election of honorary Members shall be conducted in the same manner as that of ordinary Members.

XIII.—Honorary Members shall be entitled to all the privileges of ordinary Members, except that of voting, and of holding any office.

XIV.—No Election shall take place at any other than ordinary meetings of the Society.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE OBLIGATION TO BE SUBSCRIBED.

EVERY Person elected a Member of the Society, shall, previous to his admission, subscribe the following obligation.

“ We whose names are hereunto subscribed, do hereby promise,
 “ each for himself, that we will, to the utmost of our power, promote the honour and interest of the Medical and Chirurgical
 “ Society of London, and observe the Statutes and Orders of the
 “ said Society. Provided that, whensoever any of us shall signify
 “ to the President, in writing, that he desireth to withdraw
 “ therefrom, he shall be free from this Obligation for the future.”

And if any Person elected shall refuse to subscribe the said Obligation, the Election of that person shall be void.

CHAPTER III.

OF THE PAYMENTS TO BE MADE BY THE MEMBERS.

I.—EVERY Person elected a Member of the Society, shall, previous to his admission, pay to the use of the Society, the sum of Six Guineas as an Admission Fee; and shall also further contribute the sum of Three Guineas annually.

II.—All yearly Contributions shall be considered payable at each anniversary Meeting, for the preceding year; but no Member elected within four months of the anniversary Meeting, shall be liable to pay his annual contribution, till the second anniversary from the time of his election.

III.—No Member shall have the right of voting, or the use of the library, who is more than one year in arrear; and if any Member shall neglect to pay his annual Subscription to the Treasurer, or the person appointed by him, for two years after it has become due, he shall be liable to ejection from the Society; the Council first giving such notice or notices of the default, as they shall think proper, according to the nature of the case.

IV.—Such Gentlemen as have been elected Members of the Society, and do not live within twenty miles of the Metropolis, shall be considered Members of the Society, without the form of admision, on payment of the sum of Six Guineas, without further annual contribution.

V.—But should such Gentlemen ever reside in the Metropolis, they shall contribute the usual annual Subscription like other Members.

CHAPTER III.



CHAPTER IV.

OF THE DEATH OR WITHDRAWING OF MEMBERS.

I.—THE Death of any Member shall be noticed by one of the Secretaries in the printed list of that year, and shall be recorded in the Journal Book at the next anniversary Meeting.

II.—No Member shall be understood to have withdrawn himself from the Society, unless he shall have signified such his intention by letter, under his hand, addressed to the President; and if such letter be not left at the House of the Society, previous to the anniversary Meeting, the contribution of such Member, shall be understood to be continued for the whole of the year in which he shall have so withdrawn himself.

CHAPTER V.

OF THE CAUSES AND FORMS OF EJECTION.

I.—IF any Member of the Society shall, contemptuously, or contumaciously, disobey the Statutes or Orders of the Society; or shall, by speaking, writing, or printing, publicly defame the Society; or advisedly and maliciously do any thing to the damage, detriment or dishonour thereof; or shall notoriously

degrade the respectability of the medical character; or shall not, after the due and regular notice mentioned in Chap. 3d. Sect. 3d. pay his annual contribution, he shall be liable to be ejected out of the Society.

II.—Whensoever there shall be cause, in the opinion of the Council, for the ejection of any Member out of the Society, the President shall, at a meeting of the Society specially summoned, propose the ejection of such Member; which being put to the ballot, and two-thirds of the Members present voting for it, the President shall cancel his name in the Register, and at the same time pronounce him ejected in these words.

“ I do, by the authority, and in the name of the Medical and
“ Chirurgical Society of London, declare A. B. to be ejected, and
“ no longer a Member thereof.” And the ejection of every such Person, shall be then recorded in the Journal Book of the Society; and his name, as ejected, also read at the next anniversary Meeting.

CHAPTER VI.

OF THE ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS AND COUNCIL.

I.—THE Officers of the Society shall be elected annually, and shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and three Secretaries, one of whom shall be foreign Secretary.

II.—The Officers of the Society, together with twelve other Members, shall constitute the Council, and shall have the management of the Society's affairs.

III.—No Member shall be eligible to the offices of President or Vice-President for more than two years in succession; and no Member shall be eligible to a place in the Council, till the expiration of two years from the period of his having quitted either of those offices.—This Statute is not however meant to render a Member who has held the situation of Vice-President, ineligible to that of President.

IV.—At the second election of the Society, two of the Vice-Presidents (whose names shall be determined by lot) shall go out of office, and be replaced by two others, who shall be chosen from the Society at large; and at each succeeding anniversary election, the two Vice-Presidents who shall have served in that capacity for two years, shall of necessity go out of office, and be replaced by two other Members chosen from the Society at large. Nothing however in this Section, shall affect the 1st Section of this Chapter, in which it is said that the Officers shall be elected annually.

V.—Six of the twelve Members of the Council, who are not Officers of the Society, shall go out by rotation annually, and shall be replaced by six other Members, to be chosen from the Society at large. The first six who shall go out, to be determined by lot.—But a Member who has thus quitted his seat in the Council, shall nevertheless retain his eligibility to any office in the Society.

VI.—The anniversary Meeting of the Society, for the election of the Officers and other Members of the Council, shall be held on the 1st of March, unless that day shall happen to be on a Sunday, in which case it shall take place on the day following.

VII.—Every Member of the Society within the reach of the Twopenny and Threepenny Post, shall be summoned to the anniversary Meeting, at least a week previous to the day on

which it shall take place, by a letter signed by the President and one of the Secretaries.

VIII.—Within this Summons shall be inclosed a list of the Members of the Society, and also a list of the Officers and Council of the preceding year. In the latter, such names as go out by rotation, or are ineligible by the Statutes of the Society, shall be noticed; and a space left for supplying vacancies, or making such alterations as may appear to any Member to be proper.

IX.—Each Member voting, shall deliver his list, folded up, to the President, Vice-President, or such other person as may be in the Chair; and the name of each Member who shall so deliver in his list, shall be marked off on a printed list, by one of the Secretaries.

X.—When the ballot shall have been closed, the President, or person officiating in his stead, shall appoint by lot, three Scrutineers, not Members of the Council, to assist the Secretaries in casting up the suffrages. And when this shall have been done, the President shall declare the persons who shall have the majority of votes for the respective Offices, and also those who have been elected to the vacant places in the Council.

XI.—The Chair shall be taken at the anniversary Meeting, at such a time as shall be fixed upon by the Council, (the same to be previously inserted in the circular Summons) and the ballot shall continue open for two hours.

XII.—In case of any doubt or difficulty arising during an Election, it shall be determined by the majority of the Council of the preceding year, who may happen to be present, in the way which seems to them to be agreeable to right, and to the Statutes of the Society.

XIII.—In case of any Members having an equal number of suffrages for an office, or place in the Council, the person to be elected, shall be determined by lot.

XIV.—In case of a vacancy in the Council, or among the Officers of the Society, happening during the intervals of the anniversary elections, the Council shall appoint a special general meeting of the Society, for the purpose of filling up such vacancies; and the summons for such meeting, and the proceedings at it, shall, as far as circumstances will admit, be after the same manner, as is directed for the anniversary Election.

CHAPTER VII.

OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

I.—THE business of the President shall be to preside at all the Meetings, and to regulate all the proceedings of the Society and Council; to state and put questions, both in the affirmative and negative, according to the sense and intention of the Meeting; to check irregularities, and to keep all persons in order; to summon all extraordinary meetings of the Society or Council upon any urgent occasion; and to execute, and see to the execution of, the Statutes of the Society.

II.—The President shall take precedence of every Member of the Society at their ordinary place of meeting; and also in all other places where any number of Members meet as a Society, Council or Committee; and being in the Chair, is to be covered, while speaking unto, or hearing particular Members, notwithstanding their being uncovered.

III.—In the absence of the President, the Vice-Presidents in rotation, or in their absence, the Treasurer, or senior Member of the Council, or of the Society present, shall take the Chair, and shall do every such business, as the President, when present, is empowered to do by the Statutes of the Society.

CHAPTER VIII.

OF THE TREASURER AND HIS ACCOUNTS.

I.—THE Treasurer, or some person appointed by him, shall receive, for the use of the Society, all sums of money due or payable to the Society; and out of such money, shall pay and disburse all sums of money which may be due from or payable by the Society; and shall keep particular accounts of all such receipts and payments, in the way which may seem most proper to the Council.

II.—Every sum of money payable on account of the Society, amounting to £5 or upwards, shall be paid by order of the Council, signed by the President, and registered by one of the Secretaries.

III.—All sums of money in the hands of the Treasurer, which there shall not be present occasion for expending, or otherwise disposing of for the use of the Society, shall be laid out in such government, or other securities, as shall be approved of, and directed by the Council.

IV.—The Treasurer shall have and keep a book of printed check receipts for annual contributions; each receipt to be signed by himself, and to be filled up with the name of the Member paying, the sum paid, and the time paid to: these receipts to be undersigned by the person who shall receive the money on the Treasurer's behalf, who, upon the delivery of the receipt to the Member paying, is to enter upon that part of the check which shall be left in the book, the above particulars, and also the day of payment.

And for the more punctual dispatch, and orderly arrangement of the business of the Society, the contributions shall be paid as nearly as possible to the time when they become due.

VI.—The accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited annually, a short time previous to the general meeting mentioned in Chap. 13. Sect. 1. by a Committee, consisting of five Members of the Council, (of whom the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, and one of the Secretaries to be two) and of five Members of the Society, not Members of the Council, who are to be nominated by the President, with the consent of the major part of the Members present, given by ballot at one of the three next preceding meetings: any two or more of the said five Members of the Council, together with any two or more of the said five Members not of the Council, shall be a quorum of the said Committee.

VII.—The Members of the said Committee, who may be of the Council, shall make their report to that meeting of the Council which shall be held next after such audit, on or before the day of the General Meeting, and shall, together with the Members of the said Committee who may not be of the Council, make their

report to the Society, upon the day of the said General Meeting, stating not only the balance in the Treasurer's hands, but also the general state of the Funds of the Society.

CHAPTER IX.

OF THE SECRETARIES.

I.—THE Secretaries shall have inspection over the Clerk, and shall have the management of the correspondence of the Society and Council. That of the foreign correspondence, shall particularly attach to the foreign Secretary.

II.—The Secretaries shall attend at all meetings of the Society, Council and Committees; where, when the Chair has been taken, one of them shall read the minutes, orders and entries of the preceding meetings; and shall afterwards take minutes of the business and orders of the present meeting, to be entered in the proper book.—The other shall mention the presents made to them since the last meeting, shall give notice of any Candidate that stands proposed for election unto the Society at that meeting, and shall read the letters and papers presented to the Society, in the order of time in which they were received, unless the President shall otherwise direct.

III.—The Secretaries shall have the charge, under the direction of the Council, of printing the Memoirs of the Society, and of correcting the proofs.

CHAPTER X.

OF THE COUNCIL.

I.—THE Council shall have the management of the affairs of the Society, and shall appoint the Clerk and such other servants as may be necessary, shall fix their duty, and suspend or remove them if they should see occasion. They shall also determine upon such security as may be proper to be given by any Servant of the Society.

II.—The Council shall meet at the House of the Society once a month, or oftener should they see occasion, three to be a quorum. Due notice of each meeting shall be sent to every Member of the Council.

III.—All questions in the Council shall be determined by vote, or by ballot if demanded; and in case of an equality of votes, the President shall have a second or casting one.

IV.—The Council shall form a standing Committee, to determine upon the propriety of publishing, with the consent of the Author, such Papers as may have been read in the Society.

V.—They shall be empowered to call unto their assistance, any other Member of the Society, whom they may consider to be well skilled in any particular branch of science, which shall happen to be the subject matter of any such paper; and the persons so called in to assist, although not members of the Committee, may give their votes on all papers to be considered at any such meeting, in the same manner as the Members of the said Committee may do.

VI.—The method of proceeding upon the papers to be considered shall be thus:—The first entry in the Minute Book of the Society, relating to any Paper upon which the opinion of the Council shall not have been taken, shall be read; and if any Member should desire it, the Paper itself shall be read, but otherwise only the minute relating thereto: after which, the question shall be put, and decided by ballot, whether that Paper shall be printed in the Memoirs of the Society. But if the number of votes should be equal, the further consideration of the question shall be adjourned to the next meeting of the Council; when, on a second balloting, if there still be an equality of votes, it shall be determined in the negative.

VII.—The Council shall be a standing Committee for the purchase of Books.

VIII.—The Library shall be regulated by such statutes, as may hereafter be recommended by the Council, and approved by the Society at large.

CHAPTER XI.

OF THE CLERK.

I.—THE Clerk shall live in, and have the care of the Society's House, and of the Library and other Property contained in it.

II.—He shall act as Librarian; and shall regularly collect the Subscriptions from the Members as they become due, and pay

the same to the Treasurer, or person whom he may appoint to receive them, at such times as may be required. He shall prepare and transmit the summonses. He shall always be in attendance at Meetings of the Society and Council, and shall copy their Minutes into proper books. He shall be subject to such other rules and orders as may be given to him by the Council, and shall receive such recompense for his services as they shall deem proper.

III.—The Clerk shall, by himself and two sureties, give security to such an amount as may be required by the Council.

IV.—The Clerk shall not be a member of the Society.

CHAPTER XII.

OF THE SOCIETY'S PROPERTY.

I.—THE whole of the Society's Property and Effects, of what kind soever, shall be vested in seven Trustees, for its use.

II.—Securities on account of the Society, from the Clerk or other of its Servants, shall be made out to the Trustees.

III.—The Trustees shall be chosen from the Society at large; and whenever their number shall be reduced to three, an extraordinary general meeting shall be held for the purpose of filling up the number: and the three remaining Trustees, shall then convey over to as many more new Trustees, as with them shall make up seven, the Securities which stand in their name.

CHAPTER XIII.

OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

I.—THE ordinary Meetings of the Society, shall be on such days, and at such an hour, as the Council may deem advisable; but before the times of meeting be finally settled, it shall be necessary for the opinion of the Society to be taken thereupon.

II.—Each Member of the Society shall have the privilege of introducing a Stranger at every ordinary Meeting, on delivering his name to the President, or person acting in his stead: and the name of every stranger, so introduced, shall be entered in the Minute Book.

III.—The business of the Society at their ordinary Meetings, shall be to converse upon professional subjects, and to read and hear Letters, Reports, and other Papers on Medicine, or any of its branches. Written communications, however, shall not be subject to discussion.

IV.—At the ordinary Meetings of the Society, nothing relating to its laws or management shall ever be brought forward; except, where the Statutes of the Society, may, for particular reasons, order otherwise.

V.—At ordinary Meetings, five shall be a quorum; but ten shall be necessary for the Election of Members.

CHAPTER XIV.

OF GENERAL MEETINGS.

I.—BESIDES the Anniverfary Meeting for the Election of Officers, there fhall be another General Meeting held annually, for the enactment or repeal of Statutes, and for receiving the Report of the Council and Auditors on the ftate of the Society's affairs. This Meeting fhall be on fome day to be fixed by the Council, which day fhall be at leaft one month previous to the Anniverfary Meeting for the Election of Officers. But whenever it fhall happen, that there is no bufinefs to be brought before fuch Meeting, except the Report of the Council and Auditors, then it fhall be lawful for the Council (if it appear expedient to them) to defer prefenting the faid Report, till the day of the Anniverfary Meeting for the Election of Officers and Council.

II.—The making of new, and altering of old Regulations, fhall be firft propofed in Council; and fuch new Statutes, or alterations of old ones, if approved, and the approbation confirmed at a fubfequent Meeting of the Council, fhall be recommended by them for adoption to the General Meeting ordered in the laft fection, or to fuch fpecial General Meeting as they may think proper to call: and if two-thirds of the Members voting (ten being prefent) ballot in favour of the faid new Statutes, or alterations in the old ones, the fame fhall be declared to be the law of the Society accordingly. But no alteration fhall be made in the proportion of Members neceffary for electing; or in the Statutes relating to the election, or payments of Members, or to the Officers and Council, but by the concurrence of three-fourths of the Members voting.

III.—Any three Members, who are not of the Council, may recommend any new Laws, or the repeal or alteration of any old one, to the Council, by a letter directed to one of the Secretaries. On the suggestions thus made, the Council shall come to a decision at their first meeting; and if such decision shall not be satisfactory to the Members proposing the suggestions offered, the Council, if required, shall, at the first General Meeting for the repeal or enactment of Statutes, (mentioned in the 1st Section of this Chapter), bring the same forward, with their decision thereupon, for the opinion of the Society at large.

CHAPTER XV.

OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS.

I.—THE President and Council may, at any time, call an extraordinary General Meeting of the Society, when it seems to them to be necessary; giving at least one week's notice to every Member of the Society, living within reach of the twopenny and threepenny post, of the period of meeting, and the business for which it is summoned; and no business shall be entered upon at such Meeting, except what has been so notified.

CHAPTER XVI.

OF DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY.

I.—EVERY Person who shall present Books, Money, or other property to the Society, shall be considered a Benefactor thereof.

II.—His name, with the mention of his gift, shall be recorded in the book of Benefactions, shall be read at the Anniversary Meeting, and shall be inserted in the first volume of the Memoirs of the Society thereafter published.

III.—Such Books as may be presented to the Society, shall have the donor's name inserted in them.

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CHAPTER XVI

OF DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY.

1. Any person who donates to the Society, in Books, Money, or other valuable articles, shall be considered a Benefactor thereof, and his name, with the mention of his gift, shall be recorded in the Minutes of the Society, and shall be read at the Anniversary Meeting. The name of the donor shall be inserted in the first volume of the Minutes published.

2. Any person who donates to the Society, in Books, Money, or other valuable articles, as may be presented to the Society, shall have his name inserted in them.