

Statutes of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, of London.

Contributors

Royal Society of Medicine (Great Britain)

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14.

STATUTES

OF THE

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Of London.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY W. PHILLIPS,
GEORGE YARD, LOMBARD STREET.

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CHAPTER I.

Of Ordinary Members.

I.—THE Medical and Chirurgical Society shall consist of Ordinary, Honorary, and Foreign Members: the Ordinary shall comprise such as reside within seven miles of the metropolis, and are considered as Resident Members; and of such as live at a greater distance from the metropolis, and are considered as Non-resident Members.

II.—The resident Ordinary Members of the Society shall consist of Physicians, Surgeons, and Practitioners in Pharmacy: but the number of Practitioners in Pharmacy shall not exceed one third of the whole number of resident Ordinary Members.

III.—Every Candidate for admission into the Society as an Ordinary Member, 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.

IV.—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; and no person shall be declared elected, unless he have in his favour four-fifths of the Members voting.

V.—Every person elected an Ordinary Member, shall have immediate notice of his election sent to him, by one of the Secretaries ; and, if he live within seven miles of the metropolis, 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 : but if he live beyond seven miles from the metropolis, he shall be considered as a Member, without the form of admission, on paying his admission fee.

VI.—Every Person elected an Ordinary 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.

VII.—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.”

VIII.—The election of every person into the Society, with the time thereof, shall be recorded in the Journal Book ; but if it appear upon the ballot, that the person proposed is not admitted a Member, no notice shall be taken thereof in the Minutes.

IX.—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.

X.—Any resident Ordinary Member of the Society, who may cease to live in London, or within seven miles of it, shall, from the anniversary meeting succeeding the commencement of his absence, be considered as a non-resident Member, and freed from the payment of his annual contribution: and the same shall apply to any temporary absence, provided it include the whole period between one anniversary meeting and another.

XI.—The right of voting, and of holding any office, shall appertain exclusively to the resident Ordinary Members of the Society.

CHAPTER II.

Of Honorary and Foreign Members.

I.—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.

II.—The number of Honorary Members shall be limited to twelve.

III.—Foreigners who have eminently distinguished themselves in sciences connected with medicine, but do not practise therein; and Foreign practitioners who have distinguished themselves by their writings, or who have contributed to advance the objects of the Society by communications, shall be eligible as Foreign Members.

IV.—The number of Foreign Members shall be limited to twenty.

V.—The election of Honorary and Foreign Members shall be conducted in the same manner as that of Ordinary Members; with the exception, that personal acquaintance shall not be necessary in recommending them.

VI.—The Council shall have it in their power to recommend persons to the Society as Honorary or Foreign Members.

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, the use of the library, or the Society's Transactions delivered to him, who is more than one year in arrear; and if any Member shall neglect to pay his annual Subscription to the Treasurers, or the person appointed by them, 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 Ordinary

Members of the Society, and do not live within seven miles of the metropolis, shall be considered Members, without the form of admission, on payment of the sum of Six Guineas, without further annual contribution.

V.—But should such Gentlemen ever reside in the metropolis, or within seven miles thereof, they shall subscribe the obligation, be admitted, and shall contribute the usual annual Subscription like other Members.

VI.—The Medical Professors of the Universities of the United Kingdom, shall be admissible into the Society as Ordinary Members, without the usual contribution or annual Subscription.

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, until he shall have paid whatever money may be due, and have signified his intention of resigning, 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 due for the whole of the year in which he shall have so withdrawn himself.

CHAPTER V.

Of the Causes and Form 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 being two years in arrears, and having had such notice of his default as may seem proper to the Council, pay whatever sum may be due by him, 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 minute of the Council specifying such opinion shall, after having been hung up in the Society's room for at least fourteen days, be submitted to the consideration of some general or special general meeting of the Society ; and being put to the ballot, and two-thirds of the Members present voting for it, the President shall cancel the name of such Member 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 consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, two Treasurers, two Secretaries, and a Librarian, who, together with as many other Members as shall make up twenty-one, shall constitute the Council, and shall have the management of the Society's affairs.

II.—The whole of the Members of the Council shall be elected annually; but no Member shall be eligible to the offices of President or Vice-President, for more than two years in succession.

III.—One half of the Members of the Council, who are not Officers of the Society, shall go out in rotation, annually, and shall be replaced by an equal number of other Members, to be chosen from the Society at large. But a Member who has thus quitted his seat in the Council, shall nevertheless retain his eligibility to any office in the Society.

IV.—The anniversary General 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 should happen to be on a Sunday, in which case it shall take place on the day following.

V.—Every resident Ordinary Member of the Society, 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, which shall contain a printed list of the Members of the Society.

VI.—Balloting lists recommended by the Council, and having a blank space for such alterations as any Member

may wish to make, shall be laid on the Society's table, for the use of Members, four days previous to the day of election.

VII.—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.

VIII.—When the ballot shall have been closed, the President, or person officiating in his stead, shall appoint by lot, from the Members present, two 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.

IX.—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 not less than one hour.

X.—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.

XI.—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.

XII.—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 have the power of appointing a special general meeting of the Society, for the purpose of filling up such vacancies; and the summonses 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; 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, may 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, one of the Treasurers, or a Member chosen by the Members 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 Treasurers.

I.—THE Treasurers, or some person appointed by them, 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, shall receive the sanction of the Council previous to its being paid.

III.—All sums of money in the hands of the Treasurers 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 Treasurers shall have and keep a book of printed check receipts for annual contributions ; each receipt to be signed by one or both of them, 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.

V.—And for the more punctual dispatch, and orderly arrangement of the business of the Society, the contributions shall be received, as nearly as possible to the time when they become due ; and such contributions as may be more than six months in arrear, shall be reported to the Council.

VI.—The accounts of the Treasurers shall be audited annually, a short time previous to the general meeting mentioned in Chap. XVI. Sec. I. 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 shall 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, if demanded, at one of the three next preceding meetings; and any three or more of the said Committee shall be a quorum.

VII.—The said Committee shall make their report, in writing, to the Society, upon the day of the said general meeting; and also to the Council, at the first meeting which may be held next after such audit, 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 the inspection over the Clerk, and shall have the management of the correspondence of the Society and Council.

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 meeting; and shall afterwards take minutes of the business and orders of the present meeting, to be entered in the proper book:—and at the meetings of the Society, the other shall mention the Presents made to them since the last meeting: shall give notice of any Candidate that stands proposed for election into 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 Transactions of the Society, and of correcting the press.

CHAPTER X.

Of the Librarian.

I.—THE Librarian shall have the inspection of the Clerk, in all matters relative to the Library, and shall be a permanent Member of the Library Committee.

II.—He shall enter all Books in the Library Catalogues, according to the directions of the Council; and shall, with the assistance of the Library Committee, inspect the Library once a year, at the time that the Books are ordered in, and make a report on the state of it to such General Meeting of the Society as the Council may direct.

III.—He shall have the charge, under the direction of the Council, of printing Catalogues of the Library.

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 stamp all Books as soon as they may be received, with the Society's stamp; and shall give out the Books to Members, according to the directions of the Council, or the Librarian. He shall regularly collect the subscriptions from the Members, as they become due, and pay the same to the Treasurers, or person whom they may appoint to receive them, at such times as may be required. He shall prepare and transmit the summonses; 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.—He shall give such security as may be required by the Council, and shall not be a Member of the Society.

CHAPTER XII.

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.—Special Meetings of the Council may be held in consequence of the requisition of the President, or two of the other Officers.

IV.—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.

V.—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.

VI.—They shall be empowered to call to 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.

VII.—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 Transactions 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.

VIII.—The Council shall annually appoint a Library Committee (of which the Librarian shall be a permanent Member), to assist them in the selection of Books, and in the management of the Library; and shall have it in their power to appoint as many other Committees as they may think useful for promoting the objects of the Society; and to admit into such Committees, any Members of the Society, whether Members of the Council or not. Such Committees are to act upon the instructions which they shall receive, from time to time, from the Council, to whom they shall report their proceedings; and their appointment is to last for no longer time than up to the day of the succeeding Anniversary Election.

CHAPTER XIII.

Of the Publication of Papers.

I.—THE Transactions of the Society, under the designation of Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, shall be printed at such times, and in such a manner as the Council shall direct.

II.—Every Member of the Society, who contributes to its support by annual contributions, and whose subscription is not a year in arrear, is entitled to receive, gratis, one copy of each volume which may be published subsequently to his being admitted a Member: and the Council shall be empowered to present, in the name of the Society, copies of the Transactions to such scientific bodies as they may think proper.

III.—Members may, on application to the Secretary, be furnished, at their own expence, with private copies, to an extent not exceeding thirty, of every paper which may be presented by them to the Society, and printed in the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions: such copies not to be delivered to them, unless by a special order of the Council, till the volume is ready for publication.

CHAPTER XIV.

Of the Library.

I.—THE Library shall be under the management of the Council, and, subject to their direction, of the Librarian and Library Committee.—It shall be open on Mondays and Thursdays, from Two till Five o'Clock. The Council shall be empowered to designate such works as shall not be allowed to circulate.

II.—Four Books shall be allowed to be in the possession of a Member at the same time. Pamphlets and periodical publications are not to be kept above one week, nor any other book above two weeks.

III.—Periodical publications shall remain on the Library table, for the inspection of Members, for a month after they are received; and during this time, they shall not be allowed to circulate.

IV.—When a Book is wanted which has been in the possession of a Member the stipulated time, the Clerk shall send a notice to the person in whose possession it may be, requesting the return of it: and a fine of Sixpence per day shall be incurred for every day that it may be detained, after the third from the transmission of such notice.

V.—The Books shall be ordered in once a year, at such times as the Council may appoint, and a fine of Five Shillings per volume shall be incurred, for neglecting to send in Books by the time required by the notice.

VI.—A Book shall lie on the Library table in which Members may insert, for the consideration of the Library Committee, the titles of such works as they may wish to be purchased by the Society.

VII.—The Council shall have it in their power to collect the fines in the way which they may think best; and the same regulations shall apply to the non-payment of fines, as to the non-payment of annual contributions.

CHAPTER XV.

Of Ordinary Meetings.

I.—THE ordinary Meetings of the Society, shall be held on every other Tuesday evening, from the second Tuesday of November inclusive, to the end of June, at Half past Eight o'Clock.

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; and no Election shall take place at any other than ordinary Meetings.

VI.—Additional ordinary Meetings may be held during the summer, when the Council may think them necessary; but at such meetings, no Elections shall take place.

CHAPTER XVI.

Of General and Special General Meetings.

I.—BESIDES the Anniversary Meeting for the Election of Officers, there shall be another General Meeting held annually, for the enactment or repeal of Statutes, and for receiving the Report of the Auditors on the state of the Society's affairs. This Meeting shall be on some day to be fixed by the Council, which shall be at least a fortnight previous to the Anniversary Meeting for the Election of Officers. But whenever it shall happen, that there is no business to be brought before such Meeting, except the Report of the Council and Auditors, then it shall be lawful for the Council to omit that meeting altogether, and to defer presenting the said Report, till the day of the Anniversary Meeting for the Election of Officers and Council.

II.—The making of new, and altering of old Statutes, shall be first proposed in the Council; and such new Statutes, or alterations of old ones, if approved, and the approbation confirmed at a subsequent Meeting of the Council, shall be recommended by them for adoption to the General Meeting ordered in the last section, or to such special General Meeting as they may think proper to call: and shall be hung up in the Society's room, for the inspection of Members, from the time that the summons for such General Meeting is transmitted; and if two-thirds of the Members voting (ten being present) ballot in favour of the said new Statutes, or alterations in the old ones, the same shall be declared to be the law of the Society accordingly. But no alteration shall be made in the proportion of Members necessary 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.

IV.—The President and Council may, at any time, call a Special General Meeting of the Society, when it seems to them to be necessary; giving at least one week's notice to every resident Member of the Society, 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 XVII.

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.—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 XVIII.

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 the 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 Transactions of the Society thereafter published.

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