

YEAR-BOOK

OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

1909



LONDON:

HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.C.

Printers in Ordinary to His Majesty.

1909.

Price Five Shillings.

No. 13.

persons nominated shall be proposed for election by means of a certificate prepared in accordance with Statute III of this Chapter, no distinction, however, being made between personal and general knowledge, and the ground on which the Candidate has been nominated by the Council, that is to say, whether as having rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science, or as such that his election would be of signal benefit to the Society, being alone stated as the qualification. Such certificate, on being allowed by the Society, shall be suspended in some convenient place in the apartments of the Society until the day on which a ballot is taken upon it. The date for the ballot, which shall not be earlier than the third Ordinary Meeting after that at which the certificate is read, shall be announced at the head of the certificate.

XIV. Every person who is elected a Fellow shall appear for his Admission, admission on or before the fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Society after the day of his Election, or within such further time as shall, for some sufficient cause, be granted by the Council; otherwise his election shall be void.

XV. The admission of any Fellow into the Society shall be at some Ordinary Meeting, in manner and form following, he having first made the payments required by the Statutes. Immediately after the reading of the Minutes has been concluded, he shall subscribe the Obligation in the Charter-book, and be introduced to the President, who, taking him by the hand, shall say these words: *I do, by the authority and in the name of the Royal Society of London, for Improving Natural Knowledge, admit you a Fellow thereof.*

XVI. The Election, the payments made previous to admission, and the Admission of every person into the Society, with the time thereof, shall be recorded in the Journal-book. Admission, &c., to be recorded.

XVII. No person shall be deemed a Fellow of the Society until he has made the payments required by the Statutes: nor shall he be entitled to vote at any Election or Meeting of the Society until he shall have been admitted in the manner and form above specified.

XVIII. Persons may be elected into the Society, under the title of Foreign Members, who are neither natives nor inhabitants of His Majesty's dominions, and shall be exempted from the operation of Chapters II and III of these Statutes; they shall be selected from among men of the greatest eminence for their scientific discoveries and attainments.

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MEMORANDUM AS TO THE WISHES OF THE COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF BENEFACTIONS TO THE SOCIETY.

From time to time since its foundation, the Royal Society has, through the generosity of benefactors, received funds, now amounting to a very considerable sum.

In the majority of cases the terms of gift have limited the application of the money to certain definite purposes, and, in particular, to the award of medals or other prizes for scientific discoveries or other contributions to the advancement of Natural Knowledge.

Every year the Council have to award several medals, including the Copley, Royal, Rumford, Davy, Darwin, Buchanan, Sylvester, and Hughes Medals, or some of these, and have been led by experience to the conclusion that it is neither to the advantage of the Society nor in the interests of the advancement of Natural Knowledge that this already long list of medals should in future be added to, and that, therefore, no further bequests to be awarded as prizes for past achievements should be accepted by the Society.

They desire, however, to make known that the funds belonging absolutely to the Society, funds tied down by no special directions as to their applications, funds which the Society are free to use for general purposes, are very few indeed. And the President and Council have again and again had the experience that the usefulness of the Society for the advancement of Natural Knowledge has been greatly hampered by the lack of funds of which they could freely make use according to their own judgment.

The President and Council are confident that it would not be difficult, wherever desirable, to associate in some conspicuous manner with any gift to the Society the name of the benefactor, and indeed they would wish to do so.

The President and Council accordingly desire to make it generally known that, while they will willingly receive gifts to be applied to special objects or for the benefit of particular sciences indicated by the donors, they consider that, in view of the varying necessities of Science, the most useful benefactions are those which are given to the Society in general terms for the advancement of Natural Knowledge.