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L A W S

OF THE

PHYSICAL SOCIETY,

HELD AT

GUY'S HOSPITAL.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED BY H. REYNELL, No. 21, PICCADILLY;
PRINTER TO THE SOCIETY.

M.DCC.LXXXVII.

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L A W S, &c.

CHAP. I.

OF THE SOCIETY. — ITS MEETINGS, &c.

RULE I.

THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY shall consist of Honorary, Ordinary and Corresponding Members; together with the Officers hereafter specified.

II.

The Society shall be convened on the first *Saturday* in *October*, and continue to meet on the same day of each succeeding Week, 'till the last *Saturday* in *May*. The meeting shall commence at Seven o'Clock, and close at Ten.

III.

The Names of the Ordinary Members shall be called over at the beginning of each Meeting, when such as are absent shall forfeit Six-pence, unless they shall have sent a written Excuse; and every Ordinary Member leaving the Room

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during the Transaction of Business, without Permission from the President, shall forfeit One Shilling.

I V.

Five Members, legally assembled, shall be entitled to transact any Business of the Society except repealing, suspending, or altering the Laws; for which Purposes, at least Ten Members must be present.

V.

The Business of the Society, shall be of two Kinds; Public and Private. The Public Business shall consist in the Communication of Cases and Opinions; and in the reading and discussion of Dissertations. The private Business shall include all other Matters in which the Society may be concerned.

V I.

In every Question relating to the Business of the Society, and not previously settled in the Laws, any Member may demand a determination by Ballot.

V I I.

To decide any Question where a Ballot shall not be demanded, the mode shall be by Shew of

of Hands. Any Member refusing to hold up his Hand on one Side or the other, shall be fined Six-pence.

C H A P. II.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

R U L E I,

No one shall be admitted a Member, unless he shall have been regularly proposed, seconded and balloted for. Such Proposal, specifying the Name and Residence of the Candidate, must be made in Writing, and shall remain for the Inspection of the Members, in some conspicuous Part of the Theatre, till the ensuing Meeting, when it shall be determined by Ballot.

II.

A Candidate having nine-tenths of the Votes of the Members-present in his Favour, shall be admitted; if less than nine-tenths, he shall be rejected.

III.

To obviate any Mistake in Elections, the Ballot shall in every Case of Rejection, be had
Twice

Twice during the same Meeting. If in the second Ballot the proposed Member should also be rejected, he shall on no Account be again proposed during the same Session.

CHAP. III.

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

RULE I.

Each Ordinary Member shall, on his Admission, pay Ten Shillings and Six-pence; and the further Sum of One Shilling every Fortnight.

II.

Any Ordinary Member being indebted to the Society, and not discharging his Debts shall be fined One Shilling for every Month, and if he further neglect to discharge them till after the last Meeting of the Session, he shall be expelled.

III.

An Ordinary Member absenting himself for Five successive Meetings, without a sufficient Excuse, shall be expelled.

IV.

IV.

Each Ordinary Member shall in Succession, deliver in a Dissertation on some Physical Subject, under the penalty of Ten Shillings and Six-pence,

V.

Ordinary Members removing from London, shall, on expressing their desire to the President in Writing, be considered as Corresponding Members.

VI.

Ordinary Members having attended the Meetings of the Society for two Sessions, and read two Dissertations, may petition for Honorary Seats. Such Petitions must be in Writing, and having been read from the Chair, shall, on the ensuing Meeting, be determined by Ballot. The Candidate having three-fourths of the Votes in his Favour, shall be elected.

VII.

Every Ordinary Member not subscribing to the Laws for three Meetings after his Election, shall forfeit his Seat.

C H A P. IV.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

R U L E I.

Men of Eminence in the Profession, not residing in London, may be proposed as Corresponding Members

II.

Corresponding Members shall be exempted from paying Contributions, they shall enjoy the Privileges of Ordinary Members; and when in London, and attending the Society, they shall be considered as such.

C H A P. V.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

R U L E I.

Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecaries, and Men of Eminence in any of the Sciences, may be proposed as Honorary Members.

II.

Honorary Members shall not be obliged to attend the Meetings of the Society, or to furnish

nish Papers for Discussion : they shall be exempted from the payment of Contributions and Fines, except in such Cases as shall be specified to the contrary : they shall enjoy all the privileges of Ordinary Members : the power of writing for the Prizes alone excepted.

I I I.

An Honorary Member having engaged in any Office, is rendered liable to such Penalties, as may be incurred by neglect of Duty in that Office.

C H A P. VI.

P R E S I D E N T S.

R U L E I.

Six Presidents shall be annually chosen by Ballot.

I I.

Each shall preside alternately ; and if absent at the time of Meeting, without having provided a Substitute, shall be fined Two Shillings and Six-pence.

III.

In the absence of the Presidents, the oldest Ordinary Member present, shall supply the Place, under the penalty of Two Shillings and Six-pence, on refusal.

IV.

The President in the Chair shall regulate and direct the Debates; he shall check any unprofitable Disputes; and be invested with authority sufficient to conduct every part of the Society's Business, with becoming Decorum.

V.

In any Question, where the Votes of the Society shall be equally divided, the acting President shall, beside his Vote as a Member, have the Privilege of the casting Vote.

VI.

The Presidents shall be upon all Committees.

C H A P. VII.

L I B R A R Y, A N D L I B R A R I A N.

R U L E I.

Such Sums of Money as the Society may from Time to Time think proper, shall be employed for the Purpose of establishing a Library.

I I.

Such Books only shall be purchased as shall have been proposed by the Committee or Presidents, and afterwards approved by the Society at large.

I I I.

Every Member shall be entitled to have in his Possession one Set of Books; for which, at the Time of receiving them, he shall deposit in the Hands of the Librarian, their full Value; and shall return them, if Octavos or under, within a Fortnight; or within a Month if above that Size. On failure, he shall forfeit Six-pence for every Day he keeps them beyond the Time allowed. If any Book be injured, the Money deposited shall be forfeited.

I V.

The Librarian must be an Honorary Member.

V.

His Business shall be, to take Care of the Books; to keep a correct Catalogue of them; to deliver them to the Members; and to report at each Meeting, the Names of such Members, as by retaining Books, may have incurred Fines. He, or his Deputy, shall be present in the Library, on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from Five till Six o'Clock.

V I.

The Librarian shall be answerable for any Books which may be lost.

V I I.

In case of neglect in Attendance, or in any other Business regarding the Library, the Librarian shall forfeit Two Shillings and Sixpence.

V I I I.

He shall appoint his own Deputy.

I X.

IX.

At the End of every Session, a Gratuity shall be given to the Deputy Librarian. The Gratuity shall not be less than Five Guineas nor exceed Ten; the particular Sum to be determined by Ballot.

C H A P. VIII.

T R E A S U R E R.

R U L E I.

The Librarian shall also be invested with the office of Treasurer.

II.

At the first Meeting in every Month, the Treasurer shall deliver in the State of the Society's Accounts; on failure, he shall incur the penalty of One Shilling.

C H A P. IX.

S E C R E T A R Y.

R U L E I.

A Secretary shall be annually chosen from those who were ordinary Members the preceding Session.

II.

II.

He shall be present in the Theatre before the time of Meeting, to furnish Tickets, &c. His Business shall be to keep Minutes of the Society's Transactions; to read the Minutes, and call over the List of Members; to collect and keep an Account of Fines, Admission, and Subscription-Money; to be accountable to the Treasurer for such Sums as he shall receive; and to collect Ballots and Votes. He shall likewise inform Members of their Election, and furnish them with the Laws. He shall attend all Committees.

III.

Previous to the first Meeting in every Month, he shall require from the Treasurer, an Account of the Society's Money, &c.

IV.

In case of Neglect in any part of his Duty, he shall be liable to a fine of One Shilling.

C H A P. X.

C O M M I T T E E.

R U L E I.

At the Commencement of every Season, a Committee shall be appointed, consisting of
Eight

Eight of the Members ; One half to be chosen by the fitting President, the other by the Society at large. This Committee shall transact such Business as cannot conveniently be done by the whole Society, and shall make regular Reports of their Proceedings to the Society.

II.

The Gentlemen of the Committee may themselves fix the Time of their Meeting : But, after it is determined, any Member of it, who fails to attend at the Time appointed, shall forfeit One Shilling.

III.

The Officers of the Society shall be on all Committees.

C H A P. XI.

P R I N T I N G C O M M I T T E E.

R U L E I.

Beside the Committee above specified, a Committee shall be annually appointed, whose Office shall be to inspect the Cases delivered to the Society, and to select such of them as may be deemed worthy of Publication.

II.

This Committee shall consist of the six annual Presidents, the Librarian, and Secretary, four Honorary, and four Ordinary Members; to be chosen by Ballot on the first Meeting of each Session.

III.

The Committee shall meet occasionally, according to the appointment of the Majority of its Members. Any Member who fails to attend at the Time appointed, shall forfeit the Sum of Ten Shillings and Six-pence.

IV.

All Papers referred to the Decision of the Committee, must be legibly written by the Authors of them. They must be read at two separate Meetings of the Committee, and afterwards approved or rejected by Ballot.

V.

No Paper shall be published, unless two thirds of the Ballots be in its Favour.

V I.

No one shall be present while the Propriety of publishing his own Paper is under consideration.

V I I.

No Business shall be transacted unless nine Members of the Committee be present.

C H A P. X I I.

D I S S E R T A T I O N S.

R U L E I.

At each Meeting of the Society shall be read a Dissertation on some Physical Subject. No Subject to be brought before the Society twice during the same Sessions.

I I.

The Member, whose turn it may be to write, shall deliver in his Dissertation at least one Week previous to the Meeting, at which it is to be first read. If he neglect to do this, he shall forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence; and the further Sum of Ten Shillings and Six-pence, if it be not delivered before the Meeting next ensuing.

III.

Each Dissertation shall remain at least one Week in the Library, for the Inspection of the Members; at the expiration of which Time, it shall be read in the Society by the Author, and afterwards be kept by the President, till the ensuing Meeting; when it shall be discussed.

IV.

The President shall at that Meeting, again read over the Dissertation, and point out such Parts as may appear proper Subjects for Debate; when any Remarks which may be offered shall be received.

V.

No Dissertation shall be the Subject of Discussion at more than two Meetings.

VI.

Each Ordinary Member intending not to write, and neglecting to give Notice of such Intention, till within one Month from the Meeting, at which his Dissertation is to be received, shall, exclusive of the Penalties already specified, forfeit Two Shillings and Six-pence.

VII.

VII.

Honorary Members, having engaged to furnish Dissertations, are subject to the above Regulations.

CHAP. XIII.

PRIZE DISSERTATIONS.

RULE I.

Two Sets of Books, value Three Guineas each Set, shall be annually given to the Authors of the Two best Dissertations on some Physical Subjects.

II.

The Subjects shall be fixed on by the Presidents, and given out on the first Meeting of each Session; and not presented to the Society for Discussion during that Session.

III.

The Dissertations shall be delivered to the Librarian, on or before the last Meeting of that Session.

IV.

IV.

The Presidents shall determine, which Dissertations have gained the Prizes, before the first Meeting of the ensuing Session ; at which Meeting, the Dissertations shall be read by the Authors, or by the President.

V.

The Dissertations after having been read, shall be deposited in the Societys' Library.

VI.

A Motto shall be prefixed to each Dissertation, and with it shall be delivered a sealed Packet, with the same Motto on the Outside, and with the Author's Name on the Inside.

VII.

All the Dissertations, the successful Ones excepted, shall be returned, with the Packets, containing the Names of the Authors, unopened.

VIII.

VIII.

Ordinary and such Correspondent as have been Ordinary Members, shall alone be Candidates for the Prizes.

C H A P. XIV.

V I S I T O R S.

R U L E I.

Each Member may, at every Meeting of the Society, introduce one Visitor; but not more than *one*, under the Penalty of One Shilling. The Presidents shall not be limited in this Respect.

II

The Name of each Visitor shall be delivered in Writing to the President, by the Member introducing him, under the Penalty of One Shilling. Under the same Penalty, the Member shall also insert the Visitor's Name in a Book kept for that Purpose.

III.

III.

Any Member introducing a Visitor after the Society has met, shall forfeit Six-pence.

IV.

The same Gentleman shall not be introduced as a Visitor, more than twice in a Session, under the Penalty of One Shilling, to be paid by the Member introducing him.

V.

The Visitors shall be entitled equally with the Members, to join in the Debates of the Society.

VI.

No Visitor shall be present during the Transaction of private Business.

N. B. The above Regulations respect Honorary, as well as Ordinary Members.

C H A P. XV.

E X P U L S I O N O F M E M B E R S.

R U L E I.

Any Member dissatisfied with the conduct of another, may accuse him. The Accusation must be delivered to the President in Writing, and by him be read to the Society on the Meeting previous to that, on which it shall be determined.

II.

The accused Member shall be informed by the Secretary, of the Charge made against him, and of the Day appointed for its Determination.

III.

The Determination shall be by Ballot; two-thirds of the Society present approving the Accusation, the accused Party shall be expelled. If less than two-thirds appear in its Favour, the Accuser shall forfeit One Guinea.

IV.

Members improperly disclosing any Debates or Resolutions of the Society during private Business, shall be liable to the Penalty
of

of Ten Shillings and Six-pence; to be determined by the Majority of the Society.

C H A P. XVI.

ALTERING OF LAWS.

RULE I.

No Proposal for Alteration in the Laws shall be made, except in a Meeting consisting of at least Ten Members.

II.

Such Proposal must be delivered in Writing to the President, and by him be read to the Society. It must then be entered on the Minutes, and remain a Fortnight before it can be balloted for.

III.

If three-fourths of the Society appear in Favour of the Proposal, it shall be received as a Law; if less than three-fourths, it shall be rejected, and the Proposer fined Two Shillings and Six-pence.

ORDER OF THE BUSINESS AT EACH MEETING.

PUBLIC BUSINESS.

1. The Chair shall be taken at Seven o'Clock.
2. The Names of the Ordinary Members called over.
3. Visitors declared by the President.
4. The Public Minutes of the preceding Meeting read.
5. Medical News and Observations received.
This to conclude at Eight o'Clock.
6. The Dissertation intended for Discussion at the ensuing Meeting, read by the Author.
7. The Dissertation read by the Author at the preceding Meeting, discussed.
This to conclude at Ten o'Clock.

PRIVATE BUSINESS.

1. The private Minutes shall be read and confirmed; the Visitors having previously withdrawn.
2. The Dissertation received by the Secretary.
3. The Author of the Dissertation next to be delivered, declared.

4. New elected Members introduced, and Laws signed by them.
5. New Members proposed.
6. The Ballot declared.
7. Reports of Committees, or other miscellaneous Business of the Society, attended to.
8. The Money collected.
9. The Society adjourned.

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