

THE
LAWS
OF THE
Devon & Cornwall
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

ESTABLISHED MAY THE 3rd, 1838.

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Devon and Cornwall
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

LAWS, &c.

I.

THAT the Society be called "The Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society."

II.

That the Society do form a Library and Museum, and hold weekly Meetings for promoting the Science of Natural History, during the six Summer Months ; that is from April till September, inclusive ; and monthly, during the Winter recess ; that is from November to March, inclusive. That the weekly Meetings shall take place on every Thursday at Eight o'Clock ; and the monthly Meetings on the first Monday of each month at Seven in the evening.

III.

That the Subscription of the Members be One Guinea per Annum, which shall become due in advance on the 25th day of March in each year; six months after the first day of the Session of which, the Treasurer shall be required to give notice.

IV.

That Donors of ten pounds and upwards be considered Members for life, and enjoy all the privileges of the Society.

V.

That any person wishing to become a Member shall be proposed in writing, and his name posted in the Library for at least one week before admission, (such proposal to be signed by three members), and his election determined by ballot at any business meeting of the Society after that period, provided fifteen Members be present, on a majority of two-thirds of that number.

VI.

That any Member desirous of withdrawing from the Society, shall be expected to give one month's notice of his intention in writing to the Secretaries, previously to the expiration of the current year.

VII.

That Youths between the ages of 12 and 18 years upon the annual payment of five shillings each, be members of the Junior branch of the Society; and all persons under 20 years of age be admitted to all the Scientific Meetings, on payment of half the annual subscription of the Members, they being previously approved of by the Council.

VIII.

That Ladies subscribing half-a-guinea per annum be admitted without ballot, and allowed to attend the *open* Lectures.

IX.

That there be *honorary* and *corresponding* Members, who shall have the privilege of attending the Scientific Meetings of the Society—whose nomination and election shall be conducted and determined as in the case of Subscribing Members, (see Law V.) and that the Council shall have power to elect Patrons and Vice-Patrons from such Noblemen, Members of Parliament, and others, as shall become Members of the Society.

X.

That Lectures or Papers connected with the objects of the Society be read at the weekly Meetings during the Summer Months; the reading of the Lecture or Paper to commence precisely at Eight o'Clock in the evening. That no Lecturer shall on such occasions occupy more than one hour, but shall be at liberty to resume the subject at a subsequent Meeting; that at the close of the Lecture, the Chairman shall invite discussion or conversation on the subject treated of by the Lecturer;—and that the Meeting terminate at Ten o'Clock.

XI.

That the Lecturer shall give a written notice of the subject of his intended Lecture or Paper, (stating whether it be an *open* * Lecture or not), which shall be read by the Chairman before he leaves the Chair at the previous Meeting; and afterwards posted in the Lecture room until the day such Paper or Lecture shall be read.

* OPEN Lectures are such as are deemed suitable for Ladies.

XII.

That no theological nor political discussions be allowed during any Meetings of the Society.

XIII.

That Strangers, being Members of other Scientific or Literary Societies, and officers of the Army and Navy in actual service, not resident, be admitted to the Scientific Meetings on presenting their card to the Chairman or Secretaries;—that no resident within seven miles be admissable more than once in a session, unless he be a Member of the Society.

XIV.

That there be an Annual General Meeting of the Members on the last Thursday of September in each year, at Seven o'Clock in the evening, for receiving and considering the Reports of the Council; for electing President, Vice-Presidents, and other Officers;—filling up the vacancies in the Council, and for transacting all other public business.

XV.

That seven days notice be given of all General, and Special General Meetings of the Society.

XVI.

That the Secretaries be required at any time to call a Special General Meeting on receiving a requisition signed by at least ten of the Members.

XVII.

That there be a President, five Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, Treasurer, and five Curators;—one of the Library, two of the Museum, and two of the Rooms.

XVIII.

That the President, Vice-Presidents, and other Officers, be

nominated and seconded at the Annual General Meeting, and their election decided by a show of hands.

XIX.

That the affairs of the Society be conducted by a Council, to be elected by a list of names delivered by each Member annually, at the Annual General Meeting of the Members. That the Council do consist of fourteen Members elected from the general body, the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretaries, and other Officers, *ex officio*, together with the Lecturers for the Sessions;—that the Council be convened by the Secretaries at such times as the Members thereof may appoint, or in cases of emergency, on receiving a requisition signed by four of the Council;—that the business of the Council be, to regulate the affairs of the Society generally, to receive Reports from the Sections, Secretaries, and Curators, to audit Accounts, to authorise the purchase of Books, Specimens, &c., and to make Reports to the Annual General Meeting;—and the Council have power to call General Meetings

XX.

That at the Annual Meeting, seven of the Members elected from the general body who have been in the Council during two years, do go out of office, but be eligible to be re-elected; and that at the Meeting, a list of seven of the Subscribers be selected by each Member to add to the Council of the ensuing year—such list to be delivered to the Chairman, and to be scrutinized by three Members.

XXI.

That Sections be formed at the recommendation of the Council for superintending the various branches of Science, conducting

correspondences, and reporting thereon at their Periodical Meetings; but that it shall be left to the option of Members to enroll their names in one or more Sections, or remain disconnected with any;—that the Sections do each elect a Chairman and Secretary, and that through the intervention of the Chairman, lists be communicated to the Council of such Books, &c. as each department may think requisite for its studies.

XXII.

That the Secretaries shall attend all Meetings of the Council, and all General and Special General Meetings of the Society, and keep a record of the proceedings to be read at the next Meeting, and signed by the President or Chairman for the evening; and countersigned by the President, and all manuscripts and communications shall be under his charge for the use of the Society.

XXIII.

That the Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions, Fines, and Donations made to the Society; pay all accounts passed by the Council, and keep a book of Receipts and Payments which he shall produce whenever the Council may require; that his accounts shall be audited half-yearly and signed by three of the Council appointed from that body for the purpose; and that an abstract thereof shall be read at the Annual General Meeting.

XXIV.

That the Curator of the Library shall have sole charge of the Books and Periodicals belonging to the Society; shall purchase all Works ordered by the Council, and keep a catalogue thereof on the Library table.

XXV.

1.—All Members of the Society may obtain Books from the Library, but only on application to the Curator or the Sub-Librarian.

2.—No Member is allowed to have in his possession more than one Work at a time, except for the purpose of preparing a Lecture for the Society. It is to be understood that all Books belonging to the Society are for the use of the *Members exclusively*, and not to be lent under a penalty of One Guinea.

3.—Books *deposited* in the Library for the use of the Members must on no account be taken from the Society's rooms.

4.—Books interdicted from general circulation may be taken out by a Member, on his obtaining a written permission from the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents.

5.—For every volume detained beyond the time marked on the cover, there shall be a fine of two-pence per day; and the Curator is requested to communicate with the defaulter by note sent by Post.

6.—Periodical publications may be circulated among the Members after lying on the table one month.

7.—No marks or memoranda to be made on any Book.

8.—Every Member who takes Books must sign his name in a Book kept for that purpose, and must return all Books to the Curator or Sub-Librarian, and not transfer them to other Members.

XXVI.

That the Curators of the Museum shall have entire charge of the Museum, and keep a circumstantial catalogue of all

Specimens contained therein, to be produced to the Council at their Periodical Meetings, or when required.

XXVII.

That the Curators of the Museum be empowered to call in the assistance of the Sections in classifying and arranging the contents of the Museum.

XXVIII.

That there shall be a "Book of Entry" in which any Member may enter the title of any Work connected with Natural History which he may wish to recommend to the Society, stating its price, and where it can be procured; which "Book of Entry" shall be laid before the Council by the Curator of the Library, and the purchase or rejection of the Books so recommended shall be decided by ballot at the next Meeting of the Council.

XXIX.

That all Members shall have the privilege of giving Tickets of admission to view the Museum between the hours of Ten and Four daily, Sundays excepted; and that strangers be admitted to view the Museum on application to the house-keeper; upon entering their names and residences in a book kept for that purpose.

XXX.

That none of the Cases, whether of the Library or Museum, shall be opened without the sanction of the Curator, and no Specimen on any account removed from the Museum.

XXXI.

That any Member (not attending a Lecture) be at liberty to furnish a friend with a written application (containing the names of both parties) to the Secretaries, who, on obtaining the Chairman's signature, will admit the bearer.

XXXII.

That all gentlemen becoming Members of the Society shall be required to sign the Laws, a copy of which shall be presented to them.

XXXIII.

That the Laws shall be revised as occasion may require, previous notice being given in writing and posted for three weeks before the Annual Meeting or a Special General Meeting ; that no change be made in the Laws without the sanction of such Meeting ; but that the Council have power to make any *temporary regulations*, which shall remain in force until the Meeting so called shall decide ;—and that in case doubt should arise respecting the true interpretation of any clause in the Laws, the Council shall have the power to determine the same until the next Special General Meeting after the question shall have arisen.

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