

CONSTITUTION AND RULES,

As revised at the General Meeting, January 19, 1883.

TITLE.

1.—The name of the Society is—The Society for Psychical Research.

OBJECTS.

2.—The objects for which this Society is established are :—

- (a) To unite students and inquirers in an organised body, with the view of promoting the investigation of certain obscure phenomena, including those commonly known as Psychical, Mesmeric, or Spiritualistic ; and of giving publicity to the results of such research.
- (b) To print, sell, or otherwise distribute publications on Psychical and kindred subjects ; to afford information to inquirers into these subjects by correspondence and otherwise ; to collect and arrange facts respecting them ; to open Libraries, Reading-rooms, and other suitable Premises and Offices ; and generally to do all such other things as may be conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

NOTE.—To prevent misconception, it is here expressly stated that Membership of the Society does not imply the acceptance of any particular explanation of the phenomena investigated, nor any belief as to the operation, in the Physical world, of forces other than those recognised by Physical Science.

GOVERNMENT.

3.—The Society shall be governed by a Council consisting of twenty-four members. The Council shall elect from amongst the Members of the Society a President, who shall be President of the Society, and an *ex-officio* Member of the Council and of all Committees, and who shall retire from office yearly at the first Meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society. He shall, however, be eligible for re-election, and shall be deemed as retaining his offices until he shall have been re-elected or his successor appointed, provided that no President shall hold the office for more than three years consecutively. The Council shall also from time to time elect Vice-Presidents, who shall be *ex-officio* Honorary Members of the Society, and who shall have the privilege of being present at any of the Meetings of the Council.

CONSTITUTION.

4.—The Society shall consist of—

- (a) MEMBERS, who shall contribute not less than two guineas annually, and who shall be eligible to any of the offices of the Society; and shall be entitled to vote in the election of the Governing Council and at all meetings of the Society; to use its Reading-rooms and Libraries; to borrow books from its Libraries; and to the free receipt of any journal, transactions, or periodical publication which may be issued by the Council.
- (b) ASSOCIATES, who shall contribute not less than one guinea annually, and who shall be entitled to attend all Meetings of the Society, except such as are convened for business purposes only, and to the free receipt of the ordinary published Proceedings of the Society; and shall have free access to its Reading-rooms and Libraries.

Members and Associates shall be entitled to purchase all the publications of the Society at half their published price.

5.—All Members and Associates of the Society shall be elected by the Council. Every candidate for admission shall be required to give such references as shall be approved by the Council, unless he shall have been proposed in writing by two or more Members or Associates, who, on his behalf, and by his authority, shall assent to the Constitution and Rules of the Society, and consent to abide and be governed by them, one of whom shall have certified in writing, from personal knowledge of him, that he is a fit person for admission. Every such certificate having been read and approved at a Meeting of the Council, the election shall be proceeded with. The election to be by ballot, and one black ball in six to exclude. The Council shall cause the result to be made known to the candidate, who, if elected, shall be furnished with a certificate of election and a copy of the "Constitution and Rules."

6.—The subscription shall become due immediately on election, and afterwards in advance on the first day of January in each year. In the case of any Member or Associate being elected on or after the 1st October, his subscription shall be accepted as for the following year. Any Member or Associate who is more than three months in arrear and who fails to pay after two applications in writing, shall be liable to be struck off the list.

7.—If any Member or Associate desire to resign, he shall give written notice thereof to the Secretary. He shall, however, be liable for all subscriptions which shall then remain unpaid.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

8.—The Council may invite any person who is either distinguished for knowledge and experience in the subjects of their investigation or

has rendered valuable aid in connection with these subjects, to become an Honorary Member of the Society, with the privileges, but without the obligations, attaching to Associates.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

9.—The Anniversary or Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society shall be held in the month of January, on a day to be fixed by the Council, and of which not less than twenty-one days' notice shall be given. The business of such Anniversary Meeting shall be to receive the Annual Report of the Council, and Statement of Assets and Liabilities, to elect New Members of Council, and to discuss questions on the Rules and management. A Member shall not moot any question on the Rules or management of the Society unless he shall have given at least fourteen days' notice thereof to the Secretary, but amendments to any motion may be brought forward without notice, provided they relate to the same subject. The Secretary shall give seven days' notice to every Member of all questions of which such notice shall have been given to him.

10.—Special General Meetings of the Members of the Society may be convened by the Council, or by the President, or by the Secretary on the requisition of ten Members, and notice of such Meetings, stating the objects, shall be given at least seven days previously, and no other business shall be entered upon at such Meetings than that stated in the notice.

11.—All General Meetings of the Members of the Society shall be convened by circular to the Members.

PROCEEDINGS IN GENERAL MEETING.

12.—The quorum necessary to constitute a General Meeting shall be ten.

13.—The President of the Society shall preside *ex-officio*; in his absence any one of the Vice-Presidents who may at the same time be a Member of the Society; or should no such Vice-President be present, a Member of Council. In their absence the Meeting shall nominate its Chairman.

14.—If within one hour from the time appointed for the Meeting a quorum is not present the Meeting shall stand adjourned for one week. At the adjourned Meeting the number present for the time being shall constitute the legal number.

15.—All questions shall, at a General Meeting, be determined by a majority of the Members present, except in the election of Members of Council at the Annual General Meeting, for which election voting papers shall be accepted. The Chairman shall have a second or casting vote at all General Meetings of the Society.

16.—Voting papers for the election of Members of Council shall be sent to all Members of the Society with the notice of the Meeting, and shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Society, at least twenty-four hours prior to the Meeting. They shall be duly signed by the Member voting, and be enclosed in envelopes securely fastened and marked on the outside "voting paper," and enclosed in a letter sent to the Secretary and signed by the Member voting, and they shall not be opened till so directed by the Chairman at the Meeting.

ELECTION AND BUSINESS OF COUNCIL.

17.—The Council shall consist of eighteen Members, elected annually at a General Meeting, and of other Members co-opted from time to time by the Council, provided that the whole number shall not exceed twenty-four. The Members co-opted from time to time by the Council shall cease to hold office at the Annual Meeting at which new members are elected, but may be co-opted afresh at the First Meeting of the Council after such Annual Meeting.

18.—Of the eighteen elected Members of the Council of the Society so appointed, six or whatever number may be required to reduce the number of elected Members to twelve, shall go out of office at the time appointed for election of Council in the year 1883; one other third, at the time appointed for such election in the year 1884, and the remainder at the time appointed for such election in the year 1885, and the vacancies so made shall be filled by fresh elections. All Members of Council from time to time elected at the annual elections shall go out of office at the time appointed for the annual election in the third following year. The Secretary shall every year, at least twenty-one days before the ensuing Annual General Meeting, send to all the Members of the Society a list of the retiring Members of Council, and a statement whether all, and if not, which of them are candidates for re-election. In all cases the retiring Members shall be deemed as remaining in office until they shall have been re-elected or their successors appointed.

19.—Any Member of the Society who shall have paid up all subscriptions due from him, including that for the current year, shall be eligible for election or re-election, as a Member of Council, provided he shall have been nominated in writing by a Member of the Society, duly qualified, and such nomination shall have been forwarded to the Secretary fourteen days before the time of holding the Annual General Meeting. A list of the persons so nominated shall be forwarded to all the Members of the Society, at least ten days prior to the meeting. In case more persons, duly qualified, shall be nominated for election at any Annual General Meeting than are required to fill up the vacant places of those retiring by rotation, then such persons shall be preferred and declared elected as shall obtain the highest number of votes.

20.—The Council shall at their first Meeting after every Annual General Meeting, elect a President, as provided for in Rule 3. At the same Meeting they shall also elect a Treasurer and Auditor, and such other officers as they may deem expedient, who shall retire from office annually, at the same time and under the same conditions as provided for in the case of the President by Rule 3. They shall from time to time elect Vice-Presidents, Members of the Society, and Honorary Members, as provided for by Rules 3, 5, and 9. They shall have power to appoint a salaried Secretary, and such other paid officers, assistants, and servants as they may deem necessary, and to determine their duties. All the appointments made by the Council, the Council may at their pleasure revoke.

21.—The Council shall elect persons duly qualified to fill up any vacancies which may, from time to time, occur in their own body; and any such persons so elected shall go out of office when the term of office of the persons in whose places they were respectively appointed would have expired by effluxion of time.

22.—The Council shall meet monthly, unless otherwise determined. An attendance book shall be kept, and signed by each Member of the Council at the time of entering the Council Room. In all Meetings of the Council five shall be a quorum; all questions shall be decided by vote, and a decision of the majority shall, except where otherwise provided by these Rules, be the decision of the Meeting; the Chairman to have, in addition to his own, a casting vote. The Chair shall be occupied by the President; or in his absence by a Vice-President who is a subscribing member of the Society, or should no such Vice-President be present, by a Member of Council chosen by the Meeting.

23.—The Council shall have power to appoint for special purposes Committees composed of Members of the Society or other suitable persons. Every Committee shall report its proceedings to the Council through the Chairman of such Committee, who must be a Member of Council, and no report shall be published without the sanction of the Council.

24.—The Council shall have power, by a majority of three-fourths of the Members present, in a Special Meeting of their own body duly convened for the purpose, and of which, and of the objects thereof, not less than seven days' notice shall have been given to each Member of the Council, to add to, suspend, or alter any of the rules, regulations, and bye-laws of the Society; such alteration to be in force only until the next ensuing Anniversary Meeting, unless it be then confirmed by the vote of a majority of the Members of the Society there present.

25.—The Council shall have power to employ the funds of the Society, including any funds obtained by donation, bequest, or

otherwise, in any manner consistent with the objects thereof, and they may invest any surplus funds in such securities and in such manner as they may deem proper; and they may sell, employ, or re-invest the said funds.

26.—The Council may establish Branches, and Local or Provincial Societies, in any part of Great Britain or elsewhere, under such regulations, and subject to such limitations, as they may deem fit.

27.—The Council shall have power from time to time to co-operate with, or accept the alliance of, other Societies, having similar objects in view.

AUDITORS.

28.—There shall be two Auditors—one chosen by the Members of the Society, and one chosen by the Members of the Council. These shall audit the accounts of the Society, and report thereon to the Council. The Auditors shall be empowered to examine into the particulars of all expenditure of the funds of the Society, where they shall see occasion; and may report their opinion upon the whole or any part of it, whether it has been expended in accordance with the constitution of the Society.

FINANCE.

29.—The Council shall cause true accounts to be kept of all sums of money received and paid, and shall submit the accounts of the Society, with a statement of the assets and liabilities, to the Annual General Meeting.

PROPERTY AND FUNDS.

30.—Every paper accepted by the Society for reading or publication shall become the absolute property of the Society, unless the author's rights be specially reserved.

31.—The property of the Society shall be invested in Trustees chosen by the Council. The Trustees shall be eligible to any other office in the Society.

NOTICES.

32.—The posting of a notice to the registered address of a Member or Associate shall be deemed service of a notice. Members or Associates residing abroad shall name a place of address in the United Kingdom. In default of such address, the posting of a notice in a conspicuous place at the Offices of the Society shall be deemed to be a notice.

33.—A notice forwarded by post to the Secretary of a Branch or Allied Society shall be deemed a notice to the Members of the Society of which he is Secretary.

INTERPRETATION OF RULES.

34.—In the Interpretation of these Rules words importing the singular number only, include the plural, and words importing the masculine gender only, include the feminine.