Chapter 8

Professional and Educational Activities

8.1 Introduction

The Biochemical Society is not a professional body in the same sense as, for example, the Royal Society of Chemistry, and certainly at the moment has no ambitions in that direction. The relatively recent decision not to apply for a Royal Charter (Chapter 3) emphasizes this attitude. However, gradually the main Committee of the Society has moved more and more in the direction of providing additional services to its members, so that by March 1970 a Professional Sub-Committee with six members, one the Chairman of the Committee *ex officio*, was set up under the chairmanship of Dr G. A. Snow (ICI Pharmaceuticals) (Fig. 6.7) with no specific remit other than to look into general problems. The terms of office of members were to be three years with the possibility of re-election.

Over the next few formative years changes in its constitution were frequent. In April 1973 the Secretary of the Industrial Biochemistry Group became an *ex officio* member in place of an ordinary member; then in March 1975 its constitution was substantially changed. It was agreed that ordinary members should be elected each year and serve for three years; that the additional nominated member should come from amongst members of the Committee; that the Chairman should be elected by the Sub-Committee and would serve for three years from the date of his election as Chairman; that the Honorary Careers Adviser should be an *ex officio* member. In July 1977 the title of the Sub-Committee was changed to Professional

Fig. 8.1. Professor H. Baum. Chairman of PEC. First Public Relations Official.

and Educational Sub-Committee (PESC), thus reflecting the Society's increasing concern with the training of biochemists. Further, the Sub-Committee was given an annual budget of £1000 and, for the first time, detailed terms of reference: responsibility for promotion and planning in respect of the development of Biochemistry as a profession; initiating and co-ordinating the Society's activities in the field of education; reviewing the supply, demand for, and training of biochemists; keeping under review all major issues relevant to the above, and as referred by the Committee, and making recommendations. These Terms were extended in November 1979 to include advising on Public Relations. The holder of the newly established post of Public Relations Official (PRO) was added to the Committee as an *ex officio* member. The first PRO to be appointed was Professor H. Baum (Fig. 8.1). In 1985 the increasing importance of the Committee was recognized by elevating it to a Board of the main Committee, the Professional and Educational Committee (PEC), thus putting it on an organizational level with the Finance Board and Publications Board. The Chairmen of PE(S)C since it was founded are given in Table 8.1. The various major professional aspects of Biochemistry to which the PE(S)C have so far applied their minds will be discussed in the following sections, but they are continually widening their net: the Agenda for a recent meeting contained some 75 items! Many activities which now are well established aspects of the Society's business were considered only spasmodically before the existence of PE(S)C.

Table 8.1. Chairmen of the Professional and Educational Committee*

Dates	
1970–76	G. A. Snow
1976–77	G. Boyd
1977–78	P. J. Heald
1978–81	F. W. Hemming
1981–84	H. R. V. Arnstein
1984–	H. Baum

*A Sub-Committee until 1985.

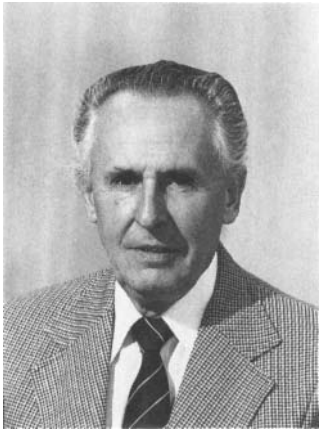

Fig. 8.2. Professor K. S. Dodgson. Honorary Secretary, 1964–1969. Chairman of the Society Committee, 1983–1986.

8.2 Careers for Biochemists

The first interest the Society showed in this problem was in 1960 when they invited the late K. S. Dodgson (Fig. 8.2) to expand a booklet which he had written for his own Department at University College, Cardiff, so that it would be suitable for national distribution. Dr D. S. Jones (Fig. 8.3), currently Careers Adviser, takes up the story:

"It is interesting to note that when the booklet was written only 15 universities including two London Colleges, offered first

degree single honours courses in Biochemistry. (Today about 50 universities and colleges offer such courses.) Looking through that booklet there are many items which in the light of the situation today make interesting comparisons. For example, referring to positions in hospitals as biochemists (today's basic grade biochemist) it was stated that a degree in Biochemistry is not essential. I wonder what today's graduates — and Ph.Ds even — think of that comment in the light of the current competition for such positions.

"The booklet has been revised and reprinted on several occasions since. In September 1962 the first revision was carried out by Professor Dodgson and then in September 1968 a new edition was produced by Dr (now Professor) Gillian M. Powell of the University of Wales, University College, Cardiff. The edition expanded the original booklet from 8 pages to 30 pages and by this time 25 universities were offering single honours courses in Biochemistry with several joint honours courses also being offered. Still in 1968 it was not considered essential to hold a degree to gain a post as a hospital basic grade biochemist. The next revision by Professor Powell was in 1975 and at this point the title of the booklet was changed from *Careers in Biochemistry* to *Careers for Biochemists*. This change was significant because, by the mid-1970s, with the increase in the number of Biochemistry graduates and the general employment situation in the U.K. starting to decline, it was clear that there was not employment in Biochemistry for all Biochemistry graduates. The revision therefore included a section which pointed out the opportunities for Biochemistry graduates outside the Biochemistry field, e.g. in management, finance and administration. For the first time photographs of people at work in Biochemistry laboratories were included in this edition.

"A further revision was completed in 1979, this time by Mr P. D. Deary (Careers and Appointments Service) and Dr D. S. Jones (Biochemistry Department), both of the University of Liverpool. At this time because of the rapid increase in inflation and the corresponding rise in salaries, information on salaries was inserted as a separate leaflet and this has been revised on a yearly basis. As well as illustrative photographs, this edition also contained a few cartoons which it was hoped would have an appeal to sixth-formers in schools. The booklet has been revised again by the same authors and published in 1986."

Fig. 8.3. Dr D. S. Jones. Honorary Careers Adviser, since 1978.

The early editions of this booklet were aimed at potential students of Biochemistry, but in 1970, when PESC was set up, little attention had been paid to the career prospects of new graduates. This was no doubt due to biochemists being very much in a sellers' market, but by 1973 the writing was on the wall and the main Committee established the position of Honorary Careers Adviser, who would be answerable to PESC and would be an *ex officio* member of that Committee. The first holder of this office was Professor Gillian Powell (Cardiff, Fig. 8.4), who covered the period 1973–1977. She found that she was dealing with queries about careers and education from individuals, careers organizations and career

Fig. 8.4. Professor G. M. Powell. First Honorary Careers Adviser, 1973–1977.

advisers and with requests for articles from various publications concerned with careers. Professor H. M. Keir (Plate 1B; Adviser from 1977 to 1979) extended the activities by developing relations with the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society for General Microbiology and the Institute of Biology. Since 1978 Dr D. S. Jones has been the Society's Honorary Careers Adviser and, in a period which has seen serious difficulties arise for the first time in the employment of biochemists, has recently been making strenuous efforts to improve the liaison between industry and the Society by visiting a number of organizations which are potential employers of trained biochemists.

8.2.1 Employment Surveys

In 1970 PESC found that little attention had been paid to the career prospects of young graduates and when the Sub-Committee set about accumulating information they found that surprisingly little was available. Dr Snow recalls:

> "University departments were reticent about disclosing their examination results or of providing precise information about the jobs to which their graduates went. The Sub-Committee decided to send out a questionnaire on these matters to all biochemical departments in the British Isles. They undertook that only collective results would be published; individual sources would not be identified. The response was better than expected and the usefulness of the data was quickly appreciated. Methods were refined in the light of experience and the yearly survey has become an accepted feature of the Society's activities. Its value has increased with time, since it can detect trends and so provide a guide for the future. In particular it provided a measure of the balance between the number of graduates being produced and the job opportunities available to them. In some branches of science numbers of graduates have greatly exceeded any likely outlet, with resulting waste and frustration. This has not happened in Biochemistry, but the surveys showed that the danger was narrowly avoided."

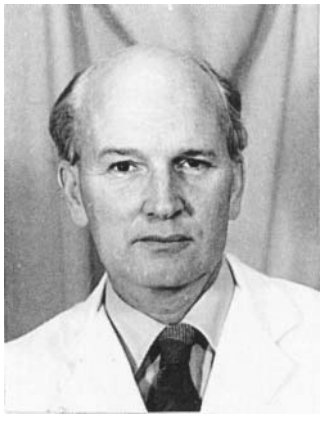

Fig. 8.5. Professor F. W. Hemming. Chairman of PESC, 1978–1981.

Professor F. W. Hemming, Chairman of PESC (1978–1981; Fig. 8.5) continued the annual surveys until Dr D. S. Jones, the present Honorary Careers Adviser, took on the job. The questionnaire sent out to Departments has developed considerably and information is collected on: the movement of scientists between different disciplines in universities posts; the age profile of academic staff in University Biochemistry Departments; the entry of Biochemistry graduates into careers in Biotechnology; and statistics on the application and admissions of students into Biochemistry Courses. The comprehensive approach to the problem is well illustrated by Table 8.2, taken from the 1985 report of the Honorary Careers Adviser. Dr Jones has summarized the trends observed since the survey began in 1970:

Table 8.2. Entry of biochemists of all qualifications into classes of employment

Originally published in *Biochemical Society Bulletin.*

	Category	1984		1983		Av. 1978–82			
		No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)		*
A1	Further biochemical training	450	(26.5)	414	(25.4)	435	(26.2)	S†	↑
A2	P.G.C.E.	69	(4.1)	N/A		N/A			
B1	Univ. staff, permanent	8	(0.5)	17	(1.0)	35	(2.1)	V	↓
B2	Univ. staff, temporary	35	(2.1)	29	(1.8)			V	↑
B3	Polytechnic staff	4	(0.2)	2	(0.1)	4	(0.2)	S	↑
C	Research institutes	57	(3.4)	45	(2.8)	45	(2.7)	V	↑
D	Univ./poly. technicians	58	(3.4)	47	(2.9)	60	(3.6)	↓	↑
E	Civil Service and Public Authorities	14	(0.8)	21	(1.3)	26	(1.6)	↓	↓
F	Hospital laboratories	71	(4.2)	66	(4.0)	94	(5.7)	↓	↑
G	Industry	112	(6.6)	110	(6.7)	124	(7.5)	↓	S
I	School teaching	8	(0.5)	79‡	(4.8)	79‡	(4.8)	V	S‡
	Biochemical employment	367	(21.6)	416‡	(25.5)	467‡	(28.1)	↓	S‡
P	Further other studies	159	(9.4)	158	(9.7)	163	(9.8)	S	S
M	Commercial/sec. work	116	(6.8)	108	(6.6)	117	(7.0)	V	↑
N	Misc. employment	42	(2.5)	40	(2.5)	31	(1.9)	↑	S
S	Other classification	1	(0.1)	1	(0.1)	15	(0.9)	S	↓
	Non biochemical employment	159	(9.4)	149	(9.1)	163	(9.8)	S	↑
H	British → Abroad (train.)	52	(3.1)	72	(4.4)	55	(3.3)	S	↓
J	British → Abroad (employ.)	25	(1.5)	31	(1.9)	19	(1.1)	V	↓
K	Non-British → Abroad	120	(7.1)	88	(5.4)	113	(6.8)	V	↑
Q1	Unplaced, seeking	121	(7.1)	177	(10.9)	125	(7.5)	↑	↓
Q2	Unplaced, not seeking	21	(1.2)	24	(1.5)	22	(1.3)	↑	S
R	Unknown	154	(9.1)	102	(6.3)	103	(6.2)	V	↑
	Total	1697		1631		1660		S	↑

*Trend over past few years, change 1983 → 84.
† S = Steady; V = variable; ↑ = increase; ↓ = decrease.
‡ Includes Postgraduate Certificate of Education (P.G.C.E.).

"The employment surveys have shown that there has been a steady increase in the number of biochemists graduating throughout the 1970s, reaching a peak in 1981. Since then the output seems to have more or less steadied. Of the total of biochemists at all levels of qualification coming on to the employment market, whereas in the early 1970s about 64% remained in a Biochemistry related area [either in further training (33%) or in employment (31%)], in 1984 53% did so (27% in further training and 26% in employment). In the early 1970s 6% entered non-biochemical employment whereas in 1984 this has risen to 9%. (These are mainly first degree graduates.) Also in the early 1970s 5% of biochemists were unplaced at the time of the survey whereas in 1984, 8% were unplaced."

8.2.2 Regional Careers Conferences

As a logical development from the Employment Survey PESC organized Regional Careers Conferences in 1970–1971. They

were held in the Universities of Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool and London. In spite of the efforts put in by the local organizers and speakers from organizations employing biochemists the conferences, although useful, were, except in the case of that held in Glasgow, not outstandingly successful and were not continued. They did, however, alert Heads of Departments to the difficulties ahead and the need to provide students with more information about careers.

During the next decade the need for a resumption of the Careers Conferences was becoming more and more urgent. They were restarted in 1980 and since then Dr Jones has organized a number of successful regional conferences. The first was held in Leeds in 1980

> "... for students in Biochemistry Departments from North of England Universities. As well as speakers other representatives from industry were invited and the programme included adequate periods of time for informal discussions between the industrial representatives and the students. Industry was asked to support the conference financially and through the generosity of many firms the conference was self-financing. The Leeds conference proved to be very successful with an attendance of approximately 200 students. Since that time conferences have been held as follows: 1981, London; 1982, Bristol and Edinburgh; 1983, Leeds and Dublin; 1984, London and Glasgow; 1985, Leeds and Bristol [and 1986, London and St Andrews]. Each conference has been styled in a similar fashion to the one held in Leeds and industry has continued to support them financially and in sending representatives. During the past three years the Society has also supported the conferences financially. They have proved very popular with students such that at some of the conferences a limit has had to be placed on the number of students from any one department being allowed to attend."

8.2.3 Other Career Activities

In addition to the major activities just discussed the Society has recently been trying to make its presence felt in careers conferences organized by schools or education authorities. This is usually achieved at the local level by putting schools in touch with the Biochemistry department of their nearest university. Currently a pamphlet is being prepared for distribution at Schools Career Conferences.

On two occasions (1971 and 1981) the Society has attempted to set up an employment register to facilitate contact between prospective employers and employees; on neither occasion did the scheme receive enthusiastic support.

8.3 Heads of Departments Conferences

The first meeting of Heads of Departments sponsored by the Society was called in 1967 by Professor G. R. Tristram. In

1970 one of the first decisions PESC took was to reintroduce the Conference and to make it an annual event. The first new style meeting, held at the A.G.M. in London in 1971 with Dr Snow in the chair, was reasonably successful. It was sufficiently successful for the decision to be taken to make it an annual event. Dr Snow recalls rather wryly: "They proved something of a nightmare to the chairman. The meeting was always reluctantly interpolated into the already overcrowded schedule of the Annual Meeting. It thus tended to occur at an awkward time conflicting with lunch or an important scientific meeting, and was often relegated to an unsuitable or crowded room where people could not easily see or hear one another. In spite of these difficulties the value of the meetings was recognized and gradually they developed a more regular and effective form".

This is certainly true and nowadays the arrangements for the Conference are much more structured; time is specifically set aside in the programme of the meeting selected; clashes with scientific activities are thus avoided. Reports of the Conferences are published annually in the *Bulletin*. One significant outcome is that Heads of Departments can frequently speak authoritatively with one voice on many important issues. This makes their *impact* on higher bodies much greater than previously. Whether in these days the *effect* on higher bodies is greater remains debatable.

8.4 Refresher Courses

One of the first problems the PESC addressed was the pace at which Biochemistry was advancing. It was suggested that occasional colloquia should be organized to keep biochemists up to date on developments in rapidly expanding fields. Such Refresher Courses should be run by individual university departments and made self-supporting by charging an appropriate fee. The first refresher course, proposed by the late Professor G. Boyd (Fig. 8.6), was held in the University of Leeds and organized by Professor P. N. Campbell. The subject was "Nucleic Acids and Protein Biosynthesis". Four days were allocated to the course, which consisted of 15 lectures; the course fee was set at £15, which covered all organizational expenses and honoraria to speakers of £15–20. Sixty attended, most of whom were from Polytechnics and Industry. A loss of £133 was easily covered by the Committee guarantee to underwrite the first course by up to £400.

Following this a number of courses were proposed; some had to be cancelled because of lack of support, some did not materialize, but the majority were scientifically successful. Early successes were courses on Enzymology (1973), Physical Techniques (1974, oversubscribed) and Chloroplasts (1975). Surprisingly the 1974 course on mitochondria had to be

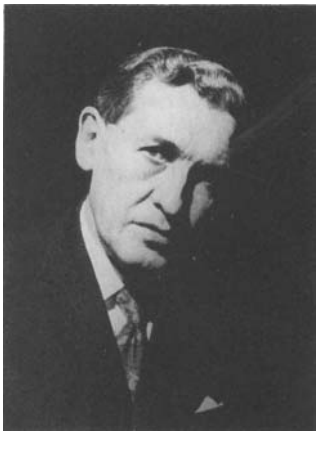

Fig. 8.6 Professor G. Boyd. Chairman of PESC, 1976–1977.

cancelled owing to lack of support. The fees, greater for non-members than for members, were fixed so as to provide a small but significant surplus. With the exception of one or two near disasters, this aim was achieved and the profits were shared equally between the Society and organizing departments. As time went on Society funds increased whereas those of University Departments decreased, so that in 1982, the share of the surpluses was changed: one-third to the Society and two-thirds to the organizing department.

In 1984 in order to make it easier for graduate students to attend Refresher Courses ten bursaries of £75 each were made available each year.

The topics, organizers, attendances and venues of some recent Refresher Courses are recorded in Table 8.3.

8.5 Public Relations

In 1976 positive steps were taken by the main Committee, on the recommendation of the Publications Board, that a Promotions Organizer should be appointed to explore ways of increasing the sale of the Society's publications and of generally publicizing the Society's activities. Dr Snow took on this difficult job and his main activities were concerned with design of material for advertising publications, publicity for the Society and study of factors affecting the circulation of the *Biochemical Journal*. His efforts on behalf of the *Biochemical*

Table 8.3. Refresher Courses organized since 1950

Date	Title	Organizer	Location	Attendance
9.80*	Biochemical Basis of Human Disease	J. R. Griffiths/ J. Hermon-Taylor	St. George's HMS, London	—
9.80	Immunoassay	G. S. Challaud	St. Bart's. HMC, London	36
4.81	Xenobiotics	D. V. Parke/G. G. Gibson	Surrey	32
4.81	Techniques in Intermediary Metabolism	C. I. Pogson	Manchester	20
10.81	Cellular Immunology	J. Taverne/H. M. Dockrell	Middlesex HMS, London	47
9.82	Microcomputer/Microprocessor	R. E. Dale	Manchester	13
9.82*	Glycoproteins	R. D. Marshall	Strathclyde, Glasgow	—
7.83	Biochemistry of the Nervous System	A. N. Davison	Institute of Neurology	60
9.83	Animal Cell Culture	R. Tindle *et al.*	Beatson Institute, Glasgow	30
9.84	Recombinant DNA	G. E. Blair	Leeds	65
9.84	Hormone Receptors	D. Schulster	Middlesex HMS, London	38
12.84	Development & Application of Bioelectrodes	C. R. Lowe	Cambridge	47
3.85	Current HPLC Practice for Biochemists	R. W. A. Oliver	Cardiff	59
4.85	Free Radicals in Biochemistry	D. V. Parke	Surrey	51
3.86	Subcellular Structure and Function	T. J. Peters	Clinical Research Centre, Harrow	32
4.86	Mass Spectroscopy in Biochemistry	R. W. A. Oliver/ J. S. Thompson	Liverpool	20
9.86	Nucleic Acid Synthesis, Sequencing and Function	A. D. B. Malcolm/ L. C. Archard	Charing Cross & Westminster MS	43

*Cancelled because of lack of support.

Journal have been summarized in Chapter 6, and the story of the Society logos in Chapter 3. With regard to advertising material it was decided that individual leaflets for the Society's publications, other than journals, should be left with the publishers concerned: "The printers have staff capable of producing acceptable, if not very exciting designs and the work is probably best left with them. In any case the numbers sold are too small to yield the Society much profit; indeed they often have to be subsidized". Dr Snow continued: "... It was regarded as more important to explore ways of publicizing the *Biochemical Journal* and *Transactions*. Accordingly a brochure was devised. This had a striking cover featuring a space satellite circling the Earth, symbolic of the rapid advance of Biochemistry. Inside, the particular merits of the Society's periodicals were listed and examples were given of important recent papers appearing in them. These brochures were used to hand out at international biochemical gatherings, meetings in the U.S.A. of the Special Libraries Association, etc. and were sent out to selected institutions. They attracted comment, mostly favourable, but it was impossible to determine whether they had any impact on sales. A second, updated version was produced; they were then discontinued. On balance, the cost and effort of production did not seem warranted by the results".

Dr Snow's somewhat pessimistic view of all his promotional activities hinted at in the last sentence may be justified, but it is certain that all his hard work clarified many issues and provided a firm foundation for later activities, particularly in dealing with journal promotion.

By 1981 when Dr Snow retired as Promotions Organizer the situation was changing rapidly and Biochemistry in general with other sciences was coming under considerable pressure, not only financial, and the then chairman of PESC (Professor H. R. V. Arnstein; Plate 3A) felt that there was an urgency to promote the image of Biochemistry in the face of increasingly unsympathetic public reaction to science and education.

Even the connection of Biochemistry with Biotechnology, which had the respectability of government approval, did not ameliorate the situation significantly. To encourage public awareness of the need for strong support of research and training in Biochemistry the PESC recommended that a position of Honorary Public Relations Official be established. This was eventually accepted by the main Committee and, as indicated earlier in this chapter, in 1982 Professor H. Baum was the first appointee. He currently pursues this activity with energy and flair. To help with this aspect of the Society's affairs and with the increasing information requirements of other expanding activities of the Society, a Research and Information Officer was appointed in 1985 (see Chapter 3). One of the major duties of this Officer is to service the PEC.

Developments in public relations have included: the establishment of press releases to scientific and national press as a matter of routine on Society meetings; the provision of information on the Society to MPs, Parliamentary Select Committees and science writers for radio and television; provision of a list of Society members who would act as official spokesmen on urgent and topical matters to MPs, the media, appropriate members of the House of Lords and to the recently formed CIBA Foundation Media Service. Indeed many of these activities foreshadowed The Royal Society's report on "the Public Understanding of Science". The overall effect of these activities has certainly been favourable, with one or two real achievements, such as in 1986 when the Chairman of PEC was invited to write an editorial on the Society's response to the Government's Green Paper on Education for the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. The article was subsequently published in the *Bulletin* [1]. Some disappointments have also occurred, as when in 1984 a seminar proposed for the Association of British Science Writers was dropped because of lack of support.

The need for improved public relations within the Society itself has been acknowledged recently by reports and extended articles on the Committee's activities as well as on other relevant topics in the *Bulletin*. Important topics which have engaged the PEC recently are the 75th Anniversary Celebrations (see below) and, closely related to the celebrations, promotion of a permanent Biochemistry Gallery in the Science Museum in South Kensington. This turned out to be too ambitious in the time available but a smaller introductory exhibition, organized in collaboration with the Society by Dr H. Kamminga and entitled "Cells, Molecules and Life", was mounted in time for the December 1986 Meeting (see also page 76).

8.6 Presence at FEBS and IUB Meetings

The presence of a Society stand at IUB and FEBS meetings began at the FEBS meeting in Paris (July 1975) when Doris Herriott (Meetings Officer, Plate 2A) set up a small display of Society material. This also acted as a base for her general activities at the meeting. Although then this activity apparently upset the organizers the provision of a stand has become a regular feature of FEBS and IUB meetings. Since 1969 the organization of the stands has been in the hands of Dr D. C. Watts and he has been greatly helped more recently by Dr Elizabeth Evans, who organized the very successful mobile exhibition in connection with the 75th Anniversary Celebrations (see Section 8.7). The very professional stands of recent Congresses are exemplified by that seen in Fig. 8.7 (Perth, Australia, 1982). Dr Watts has given his version of the way this activity developed, in his own inimitable style:

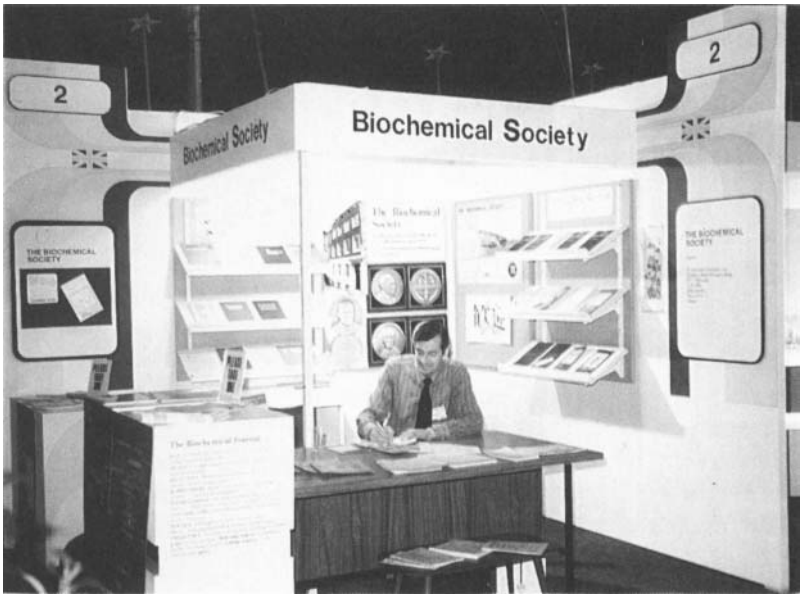

Fig. 8.7 The Society's stand at the IUB Congress in Perth, Western Australia, 1982. Dr D. C. Watts is seen in attendance.

"I have organized the stand at Toronto (1979) and subsequently Jerusalem, Edinburgh, Perth (where the display material never arrived due to strike action and I had to recreate the stand in one weekend before departure), and Brussels. There was no stand in Moscow. The attitude of the officers generally has, for the most part, been one of benign indifference so long as I did not spend too much of the Society's money! Most of the display material has been produced by me, or the art department here at Guy's, on a shoestring (and, you might say, looked it!) but it received a favourable, even envious, response from the members of other societies. The average cost to the Society for display material for the whole stand has been under £200 on each occasion. The commercial production of one poster would cost that. The *BJ* eventually became interested in the Society's stands and the Brussels meeting saw two panels contributed by Elizabeth Evans promoting the *BJ* (I had actually previously had a simple poster advertising the *BJ*). They cost as much as the rest put together, but never mind, it was the first real show of practical interest from anyone else at all (other than Doris Herriott, who has always attended these meetings and likes the stand as a base). This year [1986], for Amsterdam, Elizabeth is designing the stand in collaboration with myself, and she will organize all or most of the artwork. The cost will go up but the Society is not now hard up and at last recognizes that the stand does fulfil a useful publicity function even if it cannot be evaluated in hard commercial terms.

"In connection with the stand I organized a few give-aways, pens with the Society logo etc. It was because of this that when the Society suddenly decided it wanted a tie I was given the job of organizing it. It was not my original idea, however — at least on this occasion. The give-away situation can become quite delicate. I currently have a stock of Society keyrings, bought when give-

aways were in favour; before they could be used they went out of favour! I wait for them to come into favour again."

It is interesting to note that the keyrings came into favour quite quickly and at the IUB Congress in Amsterdam in 1985 they sold "for a modest sum, like hot cakes".

The latest stand at the FEBS meeting in Berlin was entirely under the control of Dr E. Evans, and involved for the first time the exhibition of the Society's software (with IRL Ltd.) and videos.

8.7 75th Anniversary Celebrations

In 1983 the main Committee set up a Working Party to organize a programme to celebrate the Society's 75th Anniversary. The activities which were masterminded by PEC, generally fell into two categories, one demonstrating the justifiable pride of the Society in its achievements over the years and the other exploiting the opportunity for effective public relations.

In the first category a mobile exhibition has been mounted based mainly on the Society's development over 75 years. It was prepared by Dr E. Evans (Fig. 8.8), who has also been concerned with the Society's stands at recent European and International Congresses. She has the benefit of advice from Professor G. Barker (Plate 2C), the present Society Archivist. Part of the mobile exhibition is illustrated in Figs. 8.8 and 8.9.

Fig. 8.8. Part of the Mobile Exhibition devised by Dr E. Evans (in photograph) to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Society.

Fig. 8.9. An historical moment caught at the Anniversary exhibition when it was set up in Cambridge in 1986: Dr T. Moore (lately Deputy Director of the Dunn Nutritional Institute, Cambridge) comes face to face with his father Professor B. Moore, F.R.S., the first Professor of Biochemistry in the U.K. and the founder of the *Biochemical Journal.*

The exhibition was presented at Liverpool, Cambridge, Dublin and London.

A History of the Society (this book) was commissioned by the main Committee and articles on the development of the Society were published in the *Biologist* [2] and *TIBS* [3]; the latter also carried an article on the proposed Biochemistry Gallery in The Science Museum, South Kensington [4].

To bring Biochemistry more directly to the notice of Schools an Essay Competition, supported by the *New Scientist*, was held. The topic was "Biochemistry and Society — Now and in the Future". A satisfactory but by no means overwhelming number of essays was received and the winner was Elizabeth Normand. Her essay was published in the *Bulletin* [5]. A poster prepared for the Society by ICI was distributed to Schools. At a lower level special commemorative stationery, beer mats and coffee mugs and T-shirts were available and a paper weight was presented to all contributors to the Society's 1986 Symposia, Colloquia and special lectures. Strictly speaking the T-shirts were not part of the 75th celebrations but were sold to promote the Biochemical Society Book Scheme to provide text-books for children in the Third World.

Apart from the statutory meeting in Scotland (Dundee in March) the three meetings in 1986 were held in centres historically closely connected with the Society: Liverpool (April), Cambridge (July) and University College London (December) (see Chapter 2). Additional money was made available to enable Groups organizing Symposia and Colloquia to invite more than one overseas participant to each meeting. A celebratory plaque was presented by the American Association of Biological Chemists at the Dundee meeting. At the Cambridge meeting Professor Yasutomi Nishizuka, on behalf of the Japanese Biochemical Society, presented the Society with a commemorative scroll (Fig. 8.10). Professor E. A. Dawes, Member of the Magic Circle, demonstrated his consummate conjuring ability.

The special anniversary dinner was held in December 1986 at UCL. 250 members were present and the occasion was graced by many representatives from overseas biochemical societies. The main guest speaker was Sir Hans Kornberg (Fig. 3.25). An anniversary address on behalf of the Jugoslav Biochemical Society was presented by Dr Elsa Reiner.

Fig. 8.10 Professor Yasutomi Nishizuka, on behalf of the Japanese Biochemical Society, presenting a Commemorative scroll to the Society at the Meeting Dinner at Cambridge in July 1986. Professor H. M. Keir, Chairman of the Committee, is seen at the left.

8.8 Education

Apart from the important business of organizing refresher courses PEC has devolved the organization of the general educational programmes of the Society to the Education Group. The Group's activities are discussed in detail in Chapter 5. Two important general developments have recently

Fig. 8.11. The 75th Anniversary dinner at UCL, December 1986.

taken place as the result of PEC initiatives. Firstly the Regional Groups set up some years ago to consider educational matters and which had gone into limbo have been revivified and reorganized. They are currently very active, not only on educational problems but on other topics referred to them by PEC. Secondly PEC has set up a joint working party with professional educationists to examine and advise on the presentation of Biochemistry in the A Level Biology syllabus. The decision to involve educationists was a wise one; indeed it was crucial if progress is to be made.

8.9 Animal Welfare

During the past two decades the general public has been made far more aware than previously of the use of experimental animals and has been encouraged to believe that this is not an activity compatible with a civilized society. There is no need to pursue this complicated problem further here but clearly the Biochemical Society is keen to see that the legitimate use of experimental animals should not be jeopardized as a result of acceptance of the distorted views of some pressure groups. Things came to a head when in 1979, two Bills of Parliament to regulate animal experimentation and to supersede the Cruelty to Animals Act 1976 were being proposed. The

Protection of Animals (Scientific Purposes) Bill was put forward by Mr Peter Fry under the auspices of the RSPCA and supported by the Animal Welfare groups while Lord Halsbury's Laboratory Animals Protection Bill was a product of the Research Defence Society (RDS).

The Biochemical Society, together with other similar academic organizations as well as the Pharmaceutical Industry, were asked to attend a meeting at the RDS to discuss a draft of Lord Halsbury's Bill. Professor P. N. Campbell, Director of the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, and Dr H. B. Waynforth, Head of the Animal Unit there, were asked by the Society to represent them. As a result of this meeting and the comments on it produced on behalf of the Society it was felt that the Society should have a specific member who could represent its interests in the field of laboratory animal welfare, use and legislation. Dr Waynforth was asked, and he accepted this position, which he holds at the time of writing. He sits on the Professional and Educational Committee. Dr Waynforth has kindly indicated the current developments:

> "Concurrently with the British Bills, the Council of Europe had produced a draft convention on the Protection of Animals Used for Experimental Purposes. The Society were asked to comment on the several drafts that became available and which were discussed by interested British organizations (including the Biochemical Society) at several meetings held at the Home Office.
>
> "The Halsbury and Fry Bills were allowed to proceed to various stages in Parliament but since the Government had declared its intention to produce its own Bill pursuant on the outcome of the Council of Europe Draft Convention, these did not proceed further. The Government's intentions were subsequently published in a White Paper "Scientific Procedures on Living Animals" in 1983 and comments from interested parties were requested. The Society's comments were forwarded and their usefulness acknowledged by the Home Office.
>
> "The Council of Europe draft convention set out standards for laboratory animal care which had to be adhered to by participating countries. However, it provided for individual national legislation which could ask for more stringent regulations and it was clear that the British Government would tread this path in several respects. The progress of the first White Paper and subsequently the more definitive second White Paper produced in 1985 was closely followed by the Society and comments were made to the Home Office at all the relevant stages. Unfortunately there was no feedback as to how influential these comments were, though it seemed clear that comments from the scientific organizations which, by all accounts, were fairly in accord, had far less impact than those of the British Veterinary Association, the politically motivated Committee for the Reform of Animal Experimentation and the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments.
>
> "New regulations for animal experimentation became a reality on 20 May 1986 with the Queen's assent for the Animals

(Scientific Procedures) Act. This Act complements the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention which was finalized in 1985 and signed by the United Kingdom. The Act extends the Convention in several areas as expected.

"Although the new legislation is now *fait accompli*, matters of laboratory animal welfare and use are continually evolving and will concern animal-using members of the Society into the future. The unhealthy attitude of the militant 'animal rights' organizations makes it essential that the Biochemical Society, together with the other scientific organizations, keeps abreast of developments."

8.10 Postscript

As part of the 75th Anniversary celebrations the Society invited all surviving Officers of the Society to lunch late in 1985. Two buffet lunches were arranged and the afternoons were spent in informal discussion. The occasions were enjoyable and delightful; 'old timers' were delighted to see each other and their younger successors and the author of this History gained much valuable 'copy' from the discussions which were recorded and are now stored as part of the Society's archives. The photographer was also busy and a selection of his pictures are collected as Plates in this volume (pages 93–96). These two gatherings were so successful on all levels that one strongly commends their continuation to future Officers of the Society.

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