

# BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

Edinburgh, 14th April 1836.

THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH was instituted on the 17th of March last, under circumstances which, it is hoped, will render it permanent and efficient. Famed for its University, where Sir James Smith commenced his illustrious career, and possessing the advantage of a Botanic Garden which has but few rivals in the kingdom, Edinburgh had yet no Association exclusively devoted to the advancement of Botanical Science. Such a blank it is the object of this Institution to supply; and it is confidently anticipated that the undertaking will meet with success, by receiving the cordial support of all who are friendly to the cause of Botany.

The operations of the Society will for some time be confined principally to the holding of Periodical Meetings,—to Correspondence,—to the formation of an Herbarium,—and to the establishment of a Medium of Intercourse for the exchange of Specimens between Botanists at home and abroad. At the Meetings, which are to be held on the second Thursday of every month, from November to July inclusive, Papers and Communications on Botanical subjects will be read; and with a view to extend the range, and increase the utility of this department, it is proposed to embrace also what may be termed the Botany of Agriculture. The value of an authentic Herbarium, especially to the resident Botanist, must be obvious; and this object will, therefore, receive particular attention. The peculiar feature, however, in the constitution of the Society, is the provision made for the interchange of Specimens,—an arrangement which will unquestionably do much to facilitate the study of native Botany, and present to Botanists abroad the means of obtaining British Plants at a comparatively small sacrifice of trouble and expense. Desiderata and duplicates will, as far as possible, be supplied from the Society's Collections to all its Members; and individuals anxious to improve or complete Herbaria will thus secure the important advantage of exchanging the Botanical productions of their respective districts for those of others more remotely situated. The Flora of Edinburgh, which is particularly rich, will afford a constant supply of valuable duplicates, and many rare species will be annually obtained from the mountainous parts of Scotland. Besides the advantages resulting to individuals from this arrangement, the benefits to science will also, it is hoped, be considerable, inasmuch as the Society will have at its disposal a mass of information of great importance in the formation of Local Floras, and tending to illustrate the Geographical Distribution of Plants in the British Islands.

From what has been stated, it will at once be perceived that this Society is calculated to excite not merely a local, but a very general interest, from the inducement which it holds out to all who are engaged in Botanical pursuits to profit by an arrangement and medium of intercourse not presented by any similar Institution in Britain.

Local Secretaries will be appointed in different parts of the Kingdom. In the meantime, all communications may be addressed (postage paid) to the Secretary, W. H. CAMPBELL, Esq., 21 Society, Brown's Square, Edinburgh.

The Office-Bearers of the Society, for the year 1836, are as follow:—

*President.*—Professor GRAHAM.

*Vice-Presidents.*—Dr GREVILLE and Dr BALFOUR.

*Councillors.*

Dr NEILL.

DAVID FALCONAR, Esq.

Dr BARRY.

GILES MUNBY, Esq.

and

NICHOLAS TYACKE, Esq.

*Secretary.*—W. H. CAMPBELL, Esq. *Foreign Secretary.*—EDWARD FORBES, Esq.

*Treasurer.*—WILLIAM BRAND, Esq. W.S.

*Curator.*—JAMES MACNAB, Esq.

*The Society will, as far as possible, transmit parcels free of expense, and it is hoped that correspondents will, when practicable, adopt the same rule.*

*Catalogues of the British Flora, printed under the direction of the Society for the purpose of facilitating Botanical correspondence, and distinguishing the plants found in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, may be had of MACLACHLAN AND STEWART, Edinburgh; BALDWIN AND CRADOCK, London; HODGES AND SMITH, Dublin; and JAMES BRASH AND CO. Glasgow.*

## EXTRACTS FROM THE LAWS OF THE SOCIETY.

- I. The Society shall consist of Resident, Non-Resident, and Foreign Members—who shall have the privilege of using the initials, and designing themselves “Fellows of the Botanical Society,”—and of Associates.
- II. A candidate for admission into the Society as a Resident Member, must present an application, with a recommendation annexed signed by at least two Members of the Society. The application shall be read at the proper time during private business, and at the next Ordinary Meeting shall be determined by ballot. Three negative balls shall be sufficient to exclude a candidate.
- III. Resident Members shall, on admission, sign the Laws, and pay the sum of One Guinea to the funds of the Society; and shall contribute Half a Guinea annually thereafter at the November meeting.
- IV. Resident Members shall be allowed at any time to compound for their annual subscriptions, by the payment of Five Guineas.
- V. Any person not residing in Edinburgh may be elected a Non-Resident Member, on being recommended by two Members of any Scientific or Literary Society, and paying a contribution of Two Guineas.
- VI. Any person residing abroad may be admitted a Foreign Member of the Society on the transmission of 500 specimens, (including at least 100 species), or a Botanical work of which he is the author. If the former, he will be entitled to specimens from the Society's collection in exchange.
- VII. The Society shall have power to elect by ballot Associate Members, from those who, declining to become Resident or Non-Resident Members, may have acquired a claim on the Society by transmitting specimens or botanical communications. Such Members, with the exception of attending the Ordinary Meetings, shall not be entitled to any of the privileges of Fellows of the Society, nor to use its Initials.
- VIII. The exchange and distribution of the Society's duplicates shall take place annually in the months of December and January, and shall be conducted by the Curator, with the assistance of the Museum and Library Committee.
- IX. To entitle a Resident Member to a share of the Society's duplicates, it is requisite that he shall not be in arrear, and shall have given to the Society, in the course of the year, not less than fifty species of Plants, with as many duplicate specimens of each for distribution as possible. He must also communicate to the Secretary, on or before the First of December of each year, a signed list of his desiderata.
- X. The same regulation shall also apply to Non-Resident Members.
- XI. Foreign Members must, subsequent to the year of their admission, (see Law VI.) annually transmit 300 specimens, including at least 50 species, in order to entitle them to a share of the Society's duplicates.
- XII. At the first distribution of the Society's duplicates, members shall have a preference assigned to them according to the number of their desiderata—those who have fewest ranking highest on the list; after which, the six members at the top of the list shall each year be placed by rotation at the foot of it. All members joining subsequently, shall be placed at the foot of the List, and rise by rotation. This list to be printed annually, and a copy enclosed in each parcel of specimens sent by the Society.
- XIII. Any Member about to leave Britain for some time, without the prospect of communication with the Society, on depositing along with his list of desiderata, a written promise of collecting for the Society during his absence, shall be entitled to his share of the duplicates in the same order and quantity as if he were present. If, however, the promise should not be kept, he shall forfeit his right to such duplicates.
- XIV. After supplying the desiderata of Members, the Committee is authorised, in the farther distribution of the Society's duplicates, to take into account the number and value of the specimens sent by any correspondent, and to assign him a preference accordingly.
- XV. Each specimen issued by the Society shall be accompanied by a label having the words, “Soc. Bot. Edin.,” with the name of the plant, locality, date of collecting, and donor's name, written or printed thereon.
- XVI. An Herbarium shall be formed for the use of the Members of the Society, to which easy access may always be obtained for the purposes of consultation or reference, subject to such regulations as shall afterwards be found expedient. In the formation of this Herbarium, the Curator, and Museum and Library Committee, shall have power to select from all specimens sent to the Society such as they may think desirable for that object.
- XVII. The Society shall also have in view the formation of a Botanical Library and Museum, by means of donation and purchase.
- XVIII. Non-Resident and Foreign Members may transmit to the Society papers and communications, which, if approved of by the Committee of Management, shall be read by the President or Secretary on the evenings of meeting.
- XIX. The Society shall print a report of its progress annually, (including a List of its Members), in time to be dispatched with the parcels to correspondents.