## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

Thursday, March 24th, 1927, at 4 P.m.
Professor H. Brereton Barer, C.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Report of the Council for 1926-1927, together with the Balance Sheets and Statements of Accounts for 1926, was presented, and a statement on the finances of the Society made by the Treasurer. The adoption of the Report was proposed by Mr. E. Grant Hooper, seconded by Mr. J. H. Coste, and carried unanimously.

Report of Council, 1926-1927.

## I. Fellowship Statistics.

On the 31st December, 1925, the number of Fellows was 4083. During the year 1926, 242 Fellows were elected and 16 reinstated, giving a gross total of 4341. The deaths recorded in 1926 were 32, as compared with 40 in 1925, and the resignations 101, as against 88 ; while the names of 115 Fellows have been removed for non-payment of Annual Subscriptions, the corresponding figure last year being 105. The number of Fellows, therefore, at the 31st December, 1926, was 4093 , showing an increase of 10 over the previous year. There are also 23 Honorary Fellows.

During the year the Society has lost one of its distinguished PastPresidents, Sir William Tilden, who held the office of President from 1903 to 1905, was Treasurer from 1899 to 1903, and served on the Council for a total of 37 years; while by the death of Mr. Josiah W. Kynaston (elected in 1859) the Society has lost its oldest Fellow. The Council has to mourn also the loss of a distinguished Foreign Fellow, Professor Kamerlingh Onnes, who was elected in 1920. A lecture in honour of the memory of Kamerlingh Onnes was delivered by Professor Ernst Cohen, Honorary Fellow, on 10th February, 1927, while an obituary notice of Sir William Tilden will appear in due course in the Journal. The Council would again take the opportunity of recording its appreciation of the services rendered by those Fellows who are good enough to undertake the preparation of the obituary notices for the Journal.

The congratulations of the Society have been conveyed to the following who have attained their jubilee as Fellows :

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| Henry Clected. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Harold Holcroft | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | May 4th, 1876. |
| Charles Alexander | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | June 1st, 1876. |  |
| Walter Hibbert | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | June 1st, 1876. |
| Waster | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | June lst, 1876. |  |  |  |


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| Charles George Matthews | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | June 15th, 1876. |
| Channell Law .............. | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Nov. 16th, 1876. |
| Walter Charles Davis | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Dec. 7th, 1876. |
| Arthur Pearson Luff ... | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Feb. 15th, 1877. |
| Frank Watson Young | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | Mar. 15th, 1877. |

## II. Publications.

The Journal for 1926 contained 3248 pages, of which 3089 pages were occupied by 437 memoirs and 29 notes, the remaining 159 pages being devoted to Obituary Notices, three lectures, the Report of the General Meeting, and the Presidential Address. The Volume for 1925 contained 409 memoirs and 32 notes, and occupied 2902 pages. During 1926, 528 papers were offered to the Society for publication in the Journal, of which 35 were declined, the corresponding numbers for 1925 being 507 and 37, respectively. The average length of the memoirs for 1926 was $7 \cdot 0$ pages, this being the same as for 1925.

The last Report of Council contained mention of the unsatisfactory arrangements in force for editing the Journal, stating that the matter was receiving attention. After due consideration the Council came to the conclusion that the only way in which adequate editorial assistance could be afforded was to appoint, as a part-time officer, an Assistant Editor, whose duty it should be to relieve the Editor of some of the work and edit the Journal during the absence of the Editor on holiday or through illness. The post was offered to Dr. A. D. Mitchell, who took up his duties in March.

The Council has again to record its indebtedness to those Fellows who undertake the refereeing of papers. Some idea of the magnitude of the work carried out so willingly and efficiently will be obtained if it be borne in mind that each of the 528 papers received during 1926 was submitted to two referees.

## III. Library.

Excluding the evenings on which meetings of the Chemical Society were held, there were 7692 attendances during the past year, as compared with 6994 in 1925; of these, 5273 were made by Fellows of the Chemical Society and 2419 by members of Contributing Societies, as against 2248 the previous year; while the number of books borrowed during 1926 was 5353, as against 4950 in 1925.

Additions to the Library comprise : 295 books, of which 111 were presented, 593 volumes of periodicals, and 48 pamphlets; the corresponding figures in 1925 being 265,609 , and 163 , respectively.

The Library now contains 30,899 volumes, consisting of 9361 books and 21,538 bound volumes of periodicals.

The facilities for " Photostat" copying continue to be increasingly utilised, 2084 pages of printed matter having been copied, as against 1266 pages in 1925.

> IV. General.

In the last Report of Council, the hope was expressed that the decision to hold the Annual General Meeting and Dinner from time to time elsewhere than in London would commend itself to Fellows resident in the provinces. It is satisfactory to report that the attendance at the Annual General Meeting held in the University of Manchester and at the Dinner at the Midland Hotel was such as to justify the Council in the course taken. The appreciative thanks of the Council have been conveyed to the local Committee, which undertook the arrangements for the meeting and the dinner.

In addition to the Kamerlingh Onnes Memorial Lecture, two lectures have been delivered during the year. An informal lecture was given in the Society's Rooms on April 29th, 1926, by Professor W. E. S. Turner on "The Physical Properties of Glasses; the Relationship of Chemical Composition and Mode of Preparation," and the Hugo Müller Lecture was delivered at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers by Professor S. P. L. Sörensen, of Copenhagen, who took as the title of his lecture " The Composition and Characterisation of Genuine Proteins."

The lectures continue to be well attended by Fellows, and the Council is deeply indebted to those who place their services at the disposal of the Society in this connexion.

Professor Richard Willstätter, of Berlin, has accepted the invitation of the Council to deliver the Faraday Lecture for 1927, entitled "Problems and Methods in Enzyme Research," to be given at the Royal Institution (by kind permission of the Managers) on the 18th May.

The Society was represented by Professor H. E. Armstrong and Sir William Pope at the Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Cannizzaro Celebrations, organised by the Associazione Italiana di Chimica, held in Palermo in May; an Address of Congratulation was presented. The President attended as the Society's delegate the Congress of Chemists held in London in July; while at the $6^{\text {eme }}$ Congrès de Chimie Industrielle, held in Brussels in September, the Society was represented by Professor C. S. Gibson and Professor J. F. Thorpe. An Address of Congratulation was presented to the University of Sheffield on the occasion of its Coming-of-Age Celebrations, which the President and the Treasurer attended on behalf of the Society, and also to the American Chemical

Society at the Celebrations of its 50th Anniversary held in Philadelphia in September.

Professor C. S. Gibson, Sir William Pope, and Professor J. F. Thorpe were appointed the Society's delegates on the Federal Council for 1927; Dr. T. Slater Price agreed to represent the Society for two years on the Editorial Board of the "Journal of Physical Chemistry," in the place of Professor T. M. Lowry, the Faraday Society being represented by Dr. E. K. Rideal; while Professor C. S. Gibson was nominated to give evidence on behalf of the Society before the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the existing practice relating to the method of preparing the British Pharmacopœia.

The Society's representatives on the Bureau of Chemical Abstracts for the year 1926-1927 are Professor C. S. Gibson, Dr. J. T. Hewitt, Professor G. T. Morgan, and Professor J. F. Thorpe.

The year 1926 has seen the introduction of the larger format for the " A" section of " British Chemical Abstracts," a change which, although perhaps unwelcome at first to some Fellows, represents a definite advance towards the co-ordination of chemical publication in this country. The first Annual Index covering abstracts in both pure and applied chemistry, rendered possible by the unification of format, has been prepared and will be issued in due course. The elimination of the overlap as between the " A" and " B" sections, and other changes of a minor character, such as the reduction of the space between successive abstracts and the condensation of the monthly author index, constitute definite economies in the cost of producing the " $A$ " abstracts.

The hearty thanks of the Council have been conveyed to Mrs. Alec Tweedie, who has presented to the Society a valuable portrait in oils of Liebig by Trautschold, together with some of his original letters. Particular interest is given to the portrait, which hangs on the walls of the staircase, by the fact that it is the only oil painting for which Liebig sat. Valuable additions have been made to the Society's collection of medals by the presentation of those awarded to the late Sir Edward Thorpe, and of the Le Blanc, Mond, and other medals.

The Longstaff Medal for 1927 has been awarded to Professor Robert Robinson for his researches in Organic Chemistry. The Harrison Memorial Prize Selection Committee has made its first award, nominating Dr. Charles R. Harington as the recipient of the Harrison Memorial Prize for 1926 for his work on thyroxine. Presentation of these two awards will be made at the Annual General Meeting.

After consideration of the question of limiting the term of service
by Fellows on the various Committees, the Council decided that as from April next no Fellow other than an Officer shall serve for more than five consecutive years on any Committee.

The Council desires to thank those Fellows and others who have agreed to contribute to the Annual Reports for 1926.

The Council Room has been relighted and re-decorated, and two walls have been lined with adjustable steel bookshelves. The portraits of Past-Presidents which, it was stated in the last report, would be placed in a portfolio, have been re-hung in the Meeting Room, thus rendering it unnecessary, in the opinion of the Council, for the names of the Past-Presidents to be inscribed on oak panels.

The Council received in April a request from Col.-Sergt. G. W. Holland to be allowed to retire in September, by which time he would have completed 24 years' service. The resignation was accepted with much regret, and in recognition of his loyal services the Council has granted a pension of $£ 120$ while Col.-Sergt. and Mrs. Holland are both alive; in event of the death of either, the proportion of the pension to be paid to the survivor will be determined by the Council then in office. A suitably inscribed tea-tray and a purse of $£ 660 \mathrm{~s} .6 \mathrm{~d}$. ., to which members of Council and other Fellows had been invited to subscribe, were also presented to him.

The applications for Research Grants received during the year amounted to $£ 1337$ 15s., the sum granted being $£ 772$ (see Proceedings 1926, pp. 84 and 128). It has been decided that in future every applicant who is carrying out the research under direction should have the application initialled by his supervisor, and that if a grant be made to anyone whose permanent residence is not in this country, the supervisor, under whom the Grantee is working, shall be asked to receive the Grant and to assume responsibility for the furnishing by the Grantee of a proper report.

## Financial.

The balance representing excess of ordinary income over ordinary expenditure is $£ 135$, but there is a nominal adverse balance representing excess of extraordinary expenditure over extraordinary income of $£ 421$. This is due to the cost of providing new book-cases in the Council Room (£221), which has been carried to Balance Sheet, and to the transfer of $£ 200$, part of last year's balance, from the General Purposes Balance Sheet to the Staff Pensions Fund Balance Sheet.

Income. The ordinary income of the Society has increased during the year by $£ 612$ 4s. 3 d . This new income has chiefly been derived from the following sources: (1) Increase in annual sub-
scriptions, £234; (2) increase from sales of publications, £370 2 s .1 d . and (3) an advance of $£ 1392 s .4 d$. in the income derived from the Publications Fund. There have, however, been decreases in the incomes obtained by the sale of the Journal to the public and from advertisements.

Expenditure. The ordinary expenditure of the Society has increased by $£ 9438 s .6 d$. over that of 1925 . The chief cause of this increase is to be found in the cost of the Journal, which is $\mathfrak{f 4 0 5} 16 s .8 \mathrm{~d}$. greater than last year. The appointment of a part-time Assistant Editor in March accounts for $£ 153$ 17s. of this increase, the remainder, £251 19s. 8d., being due to the growth of the Journal by 346 pages. Actually, the cost per page of the Journal is $5 d$. less this year than last, being $£ 115 s .6 d$. for 1926 and $£ 115 s .11 d$. for 1925. Other causes of the increased expenditure are to be found in an advance in the cost of the Annual Reports of $£ 1074 \mathrm{~s} .2 \mathrm{~d}$., due to an increase in the size of the volume which, it is believed, will not recur, and in the expense entailed by the superannuation scheme, namely $£ 1765 s .2 d$. on behalf of the general staff and $£ 88$ 15s. on behalf of the Library staff, which the Society has had to meet for the first time this year. The items under " House Expenses and Repairs" and "Furniture" show an increase of fll6 9s. lld. This has been caused by the need for providing new floor coverings for the inner library (tea-room), for the office, and for the redecoration and relighting of the Council Room; it has also been necessary to provide the office with additional furniture. Nevertheless, despite this extra expenditure, the general administrative expenses have increased by only $£ 80 s .9 \mathrm{~d}$. owing mainly to the exercise of economy in other directions and to the transference of part of the expenses to the Library Account.

The general financial position of the Society could, therefore, be regarded as satisfactory were it not for the fact that it is evident, from the increase in the volume of chemical publications both this year and last, that the curve representing the world's annual output of new chemical knowledge is still rising. A steadily increasing expenditure due to this cause cannot be met by the establishment of any capital fund, because it is clear that such a fund would have to be augmented by some $£ 5000$ yearly to be of any service. It can only be met by providing new income in other ways, and, in this connexion, it must be remembered that during the past five years the ordinary annual income of the Society has been increased by $\mathbf{£ 3 5 9 4}$, or, in other words, that the income for 1926 is greater by that amount than the income for 1921. This has been accomplished without raising the subscription, and, in consequence, there are now not many new sources of income that
can be made available. A few years will show whether this increase in material which must be published is normal and recurrent, for, if it should prove to be so, the Council will have to consider in what way the situation can be met.

Library Account. In order to present a more complete picture of the annual cost of the Library and of the manner in which the participating Societies contribute towards its maintenance, the account has, this year, been printed as a separate item, in which the superannuation charges of the Library staff and a proper proportion of the general overhead administrative charges are included. For these reasons the item of $£ 2093 \mathrm{lls} .6 d$. , for Library Expenses, appearing in the General Income and Expenditure Account as against £1799 2s. 3 d . for last year, does not wholly represent an increase in the cost of the Library, because the difference includes superannuation charges and general expenses (amounting to $£ 2159 \mathrm{~s}$. 11 d .), the latter of which has hitherto been included in the General Account.

Publications Fund. The capital of the Fund now stands at $£ 71703 \mathrm{~s} .9 \mathrm{~d}$. The donations for the year amount to $£ 11029 \mathrm{~s}$., and the subscriptions to $£ 85 \mathrm{l} 8 \mathrm{~s}$. The sum of $£ 1500$ has been invested during the year, and with this $£ 4917 s$. $0 d$. Five per cent. War Stock and $£ 13105 s .5 d$. Three and a half per cent. Conversion Stock have been purchased. In addition, the Society received £1800 Five per cent. War Stock transferred at par from the Pedler estate, so that the sum invested on the Publications Fund Account has been increased by $£ 3300$. The Fund has contributed £761 16s. 2d. towards the cost of the Society's publications, but $£ 350$ of this was derived from the Government Publication Grant of the Royal Society, for which the Council desires to express its acknowledgment and thanks. Life composition fees amounting to $£ 19010$ s. have been transferred to the Capital Account. It is a matter for regret that further delays occurred in distributing the estate of the late Sir Alexander Pedler. However, at a meeting of representatives of the four Societies concerned under the Will, a scheme of distribution was agreed on, the negotiations being placed in the hands of Messrs. W. B. Keen and Co. The final distribution of the estate was made early in 1927, too late to be included in the present accounts, and in future the Publications Fund Account will benefit by the full amount of interest accruing each year from the Pedler Bequest.

Special Publications Fund. In response to a request frequently made for photographs of Chemists, it was decided to publish, as an experiment, portraits of the following eight Chemists : R. W. Bunsen, Emil Fischer, A. W. von Hofmann, D. I. Mendeléeff,

Louis Pasteur, Sir William Perkin, Sir William Ramsay, and Sir Henry E. Roscoe. There is a steady demand for these portraits, which are reproduced by a photolithographic process, and the venture is being financed by the Special Publications Fund Account. The cost of these portraits was $£ 17114 s$. 10 d ., and already $£ 723 \mathrm{~s}$. 11 d . has been obtained by their sale. The sale of the Memorial Lectures, Vol. I., has realised $£ 432 \mathrm{~s}$., making, with the amount received last year, a sum of $£ 95$ l2s. towards the original cost of $£ 2253 s$.

Staff Superannuation Scheme. The decision of the Council, made last year, to establish a staff superannuation scheme on a contributory basis has this year, as mentioned elsewhere, caused an increase in the ordinary expenditure of $£ 1765 s$. 2 d . on behalf of the general staff and of $£ 8815 \mathrm{~s}$. in respect of the Library. During the year, £159 12s. has been contributed by Fellows to the Staff Pensions Fund, and this, together with the sum of $£ 200$ transferred during the year from the General Fund, has brought the capital of the Fund to $£ 377$ 15s. 11d. The Council wishes to thank those Fellows who have contributed to the Fund, but desires to emphasise the need for further donations in order that the Fund may serve the purpose for which it has been established. The sum of $£ 51$ 15s. has been paid out in pensions during the year.

Sales of Publications. As a result of the increased price charged to the public for the Abstracts in Pure Chemistry for 1926, the income received from this source has been increased by $£ 37112 s .4 d$. There is, however, a decrease in the amount received from the sale of the Journal of $£ 323 s .1 d$. The sale of the Annual Reports realised $£ 767 \mathrm{ls}$. lld., as against $£ 759$ 3s. $3 d$. last year, and it is evident that in the present circumstances the Council cannot afford to relinquish any part of this important source of income by remitting the charge which Fellows have at present to pay for this publication.

A vote of thanks to the Auditors (Prof. A. J. Allmand, Prof. J. S. S. Brame and Dr. G. W. Monier-Williams), proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by Dr. P. C. Austin, was carried, acknowledgment being made by Dr. G. W. Monier-Williams.

It was moved from the Chair and carried unanimously that Drs. O. L. Brady, A. E. Dunstan, and G. W. Monier-Williams be elected Auditors for the coming year.

A vote of thanks to the Treasurer, Secretaries, Foreign Secretary, Council and Committees for their services during the past year was proposed by Dr. J. A. Voelcker, seconded by Prof. A. Findlay, and carried unanimously, response being made by Prof. J. C. Phimit.

In presenting the Longstaff Medal for 1927 to Prof. R. Robinson, the President stated:
" Professor Robinson,
" The award which I am about to make is the highest distinction which the Chemical Society can bestow on one of its Fellows, and the Council believes that the present award will meet with the cordial approval of all the Fellows of the Society.
" Your investigations of the chemistry of the alkaloids have not only elucidated the structure of some of these extremely complicated substances but have also indicated in a striking manner the possible mechanism of the processes by which they may be formed in Nature. You have also achieved outstanding success in your inquiries into the constitution and synthesis of the colouring matters of flowers and in your studies of the mechanism of reactions in Organic Chemistry. All this work has secured for you a place in the foremost rank of Organic Chemists and you have conferred distinction on British Chemistry.
" It is with the very greatest pleasure that I now award you the Longstaff Medal, and, on behalf of the Council and Fellows, express the hope that your work in the future will be crowned with even greater success than it has been in the past."

The President said that it had been found possible to make the first award of the Harrison Memorial Prize under the terms of the Trust Deed and that the Prize for 1926 had been awarded to Dr. Charles R. Harington. In making the presentation, the President said :

## " Dr. Harington,

"The Harrison Memorial Prize is given for conspicuously meritorious work in any branch of chemistry pure or applied, and is regarded as an exceptional distinction to commemorate Edward Frank Harrison.
" Your ably conducted investigations have led to a greatly improved method for separating the pure hormone from the thyroid gland and finally to the synthesis of thyroxine indistinguishable chemically and physiologically from the natural thyroxine. This work constitutes such a notable contribution to chemical knowledge that the Selection Committee is justified in awarding you the Prize for 1926 in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed.
" On behalf of the Harrison Memoria Prize Selection Committee, I award you the Harrison Memorial Prize and express
the hope that your future work will be even more successful than that which you have already accomplished."

The President then delivered his address entitled :-" Experiments on Molecular Complexity." A vote of thanks to the President for his services in the Chair during the past year, and for his address, with the request that he would allow the Address to be printed in the Journal, was proposed by Prof. W. P. Wynne, seconded by Prof. A. Lapworth, and carried with acclamation, the President making acknowledgment with thanks.

The report on the election to vacancies on the Council for the year 1927-1928 was read as follows:

President.-H. Brereton Baker.
Vice-Presidents who have filled the office of President.-H. E. Armstrong, H. B. Dixon, Perey F. Frankland, Alexander Scott, W. P. Wynne.

Vice-Presidents who have not filled the office of President.-J. B. Cohen, G. G. Henderson, Sir Robert Robertson, R. Robinson, N. V. Sidgwick, Arthur Smithells.

Treasurer.-Jocelyn F. Thorpe.
Secretaries.-T. Slater Price, C. S. Gibson.
Foreign Secretary.-F. G. Donnan.
Ordinary Members of Council.-M. P. Applebey, H. Bassett, E. R. Bolton, H. V. A. Briscoe, J. E. Coates, J. C. Drummond, F. A. Freeth, F. W. Gamble, R. Whytlaw-Gray, J. Kenyon, T. J. Nolan, K. J. P. Orton, R. H. Pickard, B. D. Porritt, E. K. Rideal, J. F. Spencer, G. Stubbs, F. J. Wilson.

for the YEAR ended 3Ist DECEMBER, 1926.

Income and Expenditure Accounts of other Funds for the Year ended 31st December， 1926.

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Income and Expenditure Accounts of other Funds for the Year ended 31st December, 1926.




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STAFF PENSIONS FUND

I have examined the above Balance Sheets and accompanying Incone and Expenditure Accounts with the Books and Vouchers of the Society, and certify them to be
in accordance therewith. I have also verified the Balances at the Bankers and the Investments.
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { W. B. KEEN, }\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { 23, Queen Victoria Strent, E.C. } 4 & \text { Chartered Accountant. }\end{array}$
February 9th, 192\%.

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