

3rd November 1933.

R.R.Gates, Esq.,  
King's College,  
Strand.

My dear Ruggles Gates,

I have written to Bramwell, to notify him that I want to raise a question of the more adequate representation of Biologists on the General Purposes Committee. I hope also at the same time after an adequate number of names have been selected, that the function of the Committee will be discussed, and I hope amended, so as to make it a genuine Executive Committee, as indeed it was until recently. It would perhaps be as well, if you were prepared in advance to move a resolution to this effect. What I intend to do myself, after explaining why I think the Society is suffering from its present Constitution, is to propose your name and Cutler's, expressing the hope that other names would be added. I imagine this should be passed without question, and I hope you will then propose at least two more names yourself, such as Ford and Thornton, who are both members of the Genetical Society, Ford being already quite a leading authority on Animal Genetics.

If the Council accepts these seven names, as I should expect, it is absolutely necessary

that the character and probably also the name of the General Purpose Committee should then be altered, so as to give it the character of an Executive Committee, responsible to the Council for all action taken on its behalf. At present there seems to be much obscurity, and action seems to be taken by other bodies, Finance Committee, and so on, without there being any single body to whom the Council can look, as responsible for taking action decided on, and for justifying to the Council action already taken.

The current absence of Honorary Secretaries greatly increases the need of a responsible Executive body. Another thing that would be helpful would be for one or two speakers to express the hope that the new body should draw plans, and take such action as would be necessary as should enable the Society to gain or regain its standing as a Scientific Society.

Yours sincerely,