

BIOCHEMICAL LABORATORY COMMITTEE  
OF THE HIMALAYAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE ROE RICH MUSEUM

Minutes of the Meeting held at the Roe Rich Museum on Wednesday,  
October 12th, 1932.

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A meeting of the Biochemical Laboratory Committee was held  
at the Roe Rich Museum, No. 310 Riverside Drive, Wednesday after-  
noon, October 12th, 1932. The following members of the Committee  
were present:

Major J. G. Phelps Stokes  
Louis L. Borch  
Captain E.M. Sellon  
Mrs. E.M. Sellon  
Miss E. J. Lichtmann  
Miss Frances R. Grant  
Mrs. S. Lichtmann  
Mr. W. Lichtmann  
J. O. Snyder

Major Stoke, Chairman of the Committee, presided, and  
Mr. J. O. Snyder, the Secretary, acted as such for the meeting.

The Chairman, having declared the meeting duly called and  
constituted, called the same to order, and gave a brief intro-  
ductory resume of the aims and purposes of the Committee,  
speaking of the accomplishments at the Urusvati, Himalayan  
Research Institute headquarters in the Orient, where the Biochem-  
ical Laboratory is under construction. The Committee was informed  
that the laboratory building itself was nearly completed, requir-  
ing only the finishing of the interior and the application of  
certain interior and exterior trimming. Major Stokes designated  
the main purpose of this meeting as that of discussing ways and  
means of obtaining financial resources for the support of this  
project.

The Committee members were made further familiar with the development and the actual situation at the base in the Orient by actual photographs and a description in detail, presented by Miss E. J. Lichtmann, who spent three years at the Himalayan headquarters of Uravati, having returned from there the latter part of last year. She spoke of the interest that has been manifested by Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman and various other prominent individuals throughout the world in the proposed work of the Laboratory in the field of cancer research. She announced, however, that the present financial resources are well-nigh exhausted, and in order that the work may not be delayed, measures for the raising of the educational funds must be taken in the very near future. Miss Lichtmann proposed the inauguration of a "Popular subscription fund campaign", which would invite contributions of any size or denomination.

Mr. Stokes spoke in opposition to the launching of such a campaign at a time such as this when most likely the public would be averse to it and the chances of success so very meager.

Miss Grant proposed a series of lectures to be given by persons of thorough understanding of the human aspect of the cancer problem. Miss Grant proposed furthermore a direct approach to directorates of funds which have been established for the investigation of cancer research.

Mr. Stokes pointed out in reply to the latter suggestion the inevitable difficulties to be encountered in an approach to the interlocutory personnel of such directorates. Mr. Stokes requested of Capt. Sellon the ideas which he might have in regard to this

matter. Capt. Sellon agreed with Mr. Stokes as to the difficulties in approaching such directorates without the personal contact and persuasion of some individual whose judgement holds weight with the personnel of these directorates. Capt. Sellon suggested that we endeavor to enlist the interest of all those individuals who have manifested broadmindedness in their philanthropies. He felt that there would be some likelihood of engaging the interest of some such philanthropist, who might not only contribute substantially to our project, but also might add in stimulating the interest of directorates of funds.

Mr. Horch advanced the idea that this Committee might function more propitiously if so enlarged as to include as many other individuals interested and experienced in the cancer field as possible. This suggestion met with unanimous approval.

Miss E.J. Lichtenau spoke to the Committee about the fund which has been established by a party in Philadelphia.

Mr. Stokes took up the problem of approach to directorates. He spoke of the arguments essential to convincing them that the Board which will promote and direct our research project is wholly capable and competent of such direction. He spoke of the considerations of legality as to properties and funds, which would be inevitably advanced, and urged the thorough investigation of such questions before approaching any directorates of funds.

Mr. Stokes felt especially that the right of the Horch Museum, incorporated under the laws of the state of New York, would be questioned in regard to the legal jurisdiction of its property holdings and activities in the Orient.

Mr. Horch agreed that a full investigation of these matters could

be made and that all necessary information would be supplied.

Mrs. Lichtmann made the proposition that we endeavor to have such a man as Dr. Kaplan give a lecture under the auspices of our Committee, and to have this lecture followed by a formal appeal for funds. Mrs. Lichtmann feels that Dr. Kaplan himself would show a very real interest and willingness to cooperate.

Mr. Stokes propounded further the problem as to who is accountable by law for the educational work of Urusvati, and advised the most careful consideration of this issue before any further work is attempted. In response to the latter suggestion Miss Grant cited the example of a college in Chili which is functioning under a New York State educational charter.

Miss Lichtmann presented to the meeting the pamphlet of the Tibetan English Dictionary now being compiled and edited by Dr. Georges de Roerich at the Himalayan headquarters.

Mr. Stokes inquired as to the direction of the present charter under which the Roerich Museum conducts its educational activities and made inquiry of the prospects of obtaining a permanent charter. Reply was made by Mr. Horch that our present charter, while not a permanent one, can and will be renewed, and that the first prerequisite of a permanent charter is one half million dollars capital on hand, which is of course at the present time highly prohibitive to us. E.J. Miss Lichtmann scored the law which gives judgement as to competency in the promotion of such educational work merely in accordance with money on hand. Mr. Stokes bespoke his own conviction of the lack of authority on the part of a New York Board of Regents with regard to any activities in India. Mr. Horch again replied that every inquiry and investigation would be made and that the deeds of the land would be referred to.

Miss Lichtmann pointed out the method in which the property in Orient was purchased of a Rajah, and simultaneously sanctioned by the British Government. She stated that the British Government itself did actually sell land in conjunction with Urusvati to the Institute in view of its benevolent purposes. The latter transactions were negotiated by a British Colonel of distinction, Col. Mahon.

Miss Grant suggested that inquiry be made as to what grant may be available of the United States Federal Government in the way of a charter for work to be carried on outside of the United States territories. This suggestion met with favor and it was decided that this investigation would also be made.

Miss Lichtmann announced a donation of \$200 from Mrs. Campbell to be advanced toward the salary of Lama Lobzang Mingyur Dorje, who collaborates so splendidly with our authorities in Urusvati. A motion of thanks was most wholeheartedly made to Mrs. Campbell by the Committee.

Two other small donations were announced by Miss Lichtmann: one of \$25.00 contributed to the Cancer Fund; and one of \$2.50, contributed toward the purchase of "St. Panteleimon, the Healer."

Miss Lichtmann announced the interest that had been asserted by Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Dr. Baruch, and others; and it was resolved to keep these individuals well informed as to the progress of our activities.

Mr. Stokes very strongly urged the uniting of the Biochemical Committee and the Cancer Research Committee as an undeferrable necessity considering that the work of each is inseparably bound up with the other.

Capt. Sellon very kindly offered to communicate with a surgeon, a friend of his, and to exercise his influence as much as possible in interesting this man, a man of means and kindness toward unusual works of public benefaction. Capt. Sellon felt that this individual might

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prove of great assistance to us in our work.

There being no further business before the meeting for the time being, the motion was duly made, seconded and passed that the meeting be adjourned.

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Secretary, Biochemical Laboratory Committee