

unbound

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

OXFORD UNION SOCIETY

AND

READING ROOM.

CORRECTED TO OCTOBER, 1832.



OXFORD,

PRINTED BY TALBOYS AND BROWNE.

1832.



GENERAL REGULATIONS

OF

THE SOCIETY.

I.

THE Society shall be called “*The Oxford Union Society.*”

II.

The Society shall have for its object the discussion of any subject not immediately involving theological questions.

III.

The meetings of the Society shall be held on Thursday evenings during Term, at eight in Winter and nine in Summer; and shall begin as soon as residence shall have generally commenced.

IV.

The Debate shall commence within a quarter of an hour of the time of meeting, it being in the power of any Member to call for an adjournment if less than fifteen Members are present. Notices of motions may be given, but no recommendation of the Committee shall be received, nor any other business transacted, unless there be twenty Members present at the time it is introduced.

V.

Any Member may propose any Candidate.

VI.

The election of Members shall be vested in the whole Society, and one black ball in four shall exclude.

VII.

Any Member having a Candidate to propose, shall write the Candidate's name, together with his own, on a board placed in a conspicuous part of the Reading Room for that purpose. Those whose names have been so placed before the previous Sunday, shall be ballotted for at each meeting, unless there be more than twelve; in which case the twelve first shall be ballotted for; but no Candidate shall be ballotted for on the third meeting in Term.

VIII.

Graduates, and those who have left the University, shall be ballotted for (as in Rule VI.), but be placed on the list of Honorary Members; subject however to the limitation of Rule XIII.

IX.

No Candidate shall be proposed at more than two meetings in each Term.

X.

When a Candidate is elected, he shall, on receiving notice to that effect, pay before the second meeting after his election, in addition to the Terminal Subscription, one pound—in default of which payment his election shall become void.

XI.

The regular subscription for each Term shall be twenty shillings, which shall be paid before the second meeting in Term; and any Member not paying before the second meeting in Term, shall pay a fine of ten shillings.

XII.

The Treasurer shall give notice a fortnight before the last meeting in Term, to all Members who owe subscriptions or fines; and the names of those who do not discharge their whole debt before the last meeting (unless absent from the University during the time allowed for payment), shall be struck off the list by the President, who shall communicate the same to the House. The names of the Members so struck off shall be printed and placed in the Reading Room.

XIII.

Every Member becomes an Honorary Member of the Society on leaving the University, or at the commencement of the Term in which his name appears on the list of Candidates for the second Examination, provided he has paid at least five pounds in subscriptions. And Graduates shall pay the same sum on admission.

N. B. Members of New College become Honorary Members at the commencement of the Term in which they go up for their Examination.

XIV.

No person shall be eligible who is not a Member of the University. All Members of the Cambridge Union Society, and of the Historical Society of Dublin, are Honorary Members of the Society.

XV.

The question shall be put in form of a motion, when it shall be competent for any Member to move an amendment.

XVI.

It shall not be lawful for the President to put a second amendment to the vote, before the Society has disposed of the first.

XVII.

No Member shall be permitted to speak more than once during the Debate, except for the purpose of explanation : the privilege of reply being reserved to the Mover of the question.

XVIII.

In the discussion of private business every Member may speak more than once.

XIX.

Any Member wishing to introduce a motion on private business, shall give notice thereof before the Sunday previous to the Debate.

XX.

It shall not be in the power of any Member to give notice of a general motion under which he comprehends a set of particular ones not specified.

XXI.

No motion shall be brought forward more than once in the same Term, or withdrawn without the sanction of the Majority of the Society ; and the Society cannot alter its decision more than once in the same Term.

XXII.

The power of adjournment shall be vested in the majority of the Society, but adjournments shall be not moved more than once in half an hour.

Any Member may enforce an adjournment at half past eleven.

XXIII.

All decisions of the President shall be subject to appeal, in a committee of the whole House, after the expiration of his office.

XXIV.

The President, Secretary, Librarian, and Treasurer, shall have the power of introducing two strangers to the debate, and the other Members of the Committee one each.

THE COMMITTEE.**XXV.**

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of ten. And no Member shall be eligible to be on the Committee until he has been in the Society during the space of one Term, and taken part at least once in the public Debates.

XXVI.

The Committee shall retire from office at the third meeting of each Term, and a new one be elected by secret suffrage. Each Member present shall give in a list of Members not exceeding nine. The Member with most votes shall be President, while the Secretary and Librarian shall be elected by the Committee from their own body. The six others with the Treasurer shall complete the number of the Committee.

XXVII.

When a vacancy occurs in the Committee, a new Member shall be elected by secret suffrage.

XXVIII.

All measures recommended by the Committee shall be discussed without previous notice.

XXIX.

The Committee shall meet at least once in every week, and their office shall be,

1. To select in succession Questions for Debate, of which written notice shall be given three weeks before their discussion.
2. To consider all subjects referred to their arbitration, and to report thereon to the House.
3. To examine the votes of the Society in the election of Committees.

XXX.

The Committee shall have the power of ordering Pamphlets, etc. for the use of the Reading Room.

XXXI.

No book shall be accepted till it has received the sanction of the Committee.

XXXII.

The Committee shall enquire into the fitness of any book ordered by the House, and report thereon in case of their disapproval ; when the question shall be put a second time.

XXXIII.

If a Member of the Committee shall refuse to transact any business assigned to him, such refusal shall be equivalent to the resignation of his office.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

XXXIV.

The President's decision shall be final on every question of order; and he shall have a casting vote when the numbers are equal.

XXXV.

The President shall be allowed to take part in the Debate on resigning his chair to the Treasurer or Secretary.

XXXVI.

At the beginning of each Term the President shall notify to each Member the days on which the Society will meet, and the Terminal Subscription become due.

XXXVII.

The President shall give public and immediate notice of the names of such Candidates as are elected.
[See also Rule XII.]

XXXVIII.

The President shall have the power of calling an extraordinary meeting of the Society.

XXXIX.

No Member shall be allowed to alter a question which has been chosen, without the sanction of the President.

XL.

The absence of the President for two successive meetings, without a sufficient reason being laid before the House, shall be considered as a virtual resignation of his office.