elected by the doctors and masters of arts ; and after their election they nominate four masters of arts as deputies, and may depute their authority to a greater number if necessary. Their duties are, to preserve the peace of the university, in which they are assisted by their deputies, and have under their command the academical constabulary force ; to repress disorders among the students, and to inflict summary academical punishments, as the imposition of tasks, confinement to college, &c. They have also an extensive police jurisdiction in the town. Their summary authority extends both to under-graduates and bachelors of arts.

The business of the university is transacted in two distinct as­semblies termed “ Houses,” namely, the house of *Congregation* and the house of *Convocation.* The chancellor or vice-chancellor, or in his absence one of his four deputies, and the two proctors, or in their absence their respective deputies, preside in both houses, where their presence is indispensably requisite.

The House of Congregation consists wholly of regents, either *neccesary* or *ad placitum.* Its business is principally confined to the passing of graces and dispensations, and to the granting of de­grees. In the sole instance of supplications for graces, but in no other, every member of the house, in addition to his right of suf­frage, has a suspending *negative* upon each grace for three times, as the grace is proposed in three distinct congregations ; but pre­viously to the fourth supplication, he is required to state privately to the vice-chancellor and proctors the ground and proof of his ob­jection, which are subsequently submitted to the judgment of the house for approbation or rejection. All suffrages for or against graces and dispensations in congregation are to be whispered se­cretly into the ear of the proctor, by a majority of which, given in the word *placet* or *nan-placet,* the fate of the measure is ultimately determined.

The House of Convocation, which is, with some limitations, composed of regents and non-regents alike, extends its power to all subjects connected with the credit, interest, and welfare of the university. In the exercise, however, of one particular branch of its privileges, the enacting of new or the explaining of old statutes, some restriction is prescribed. No proposition to explain or amend a royal or Caroline statute@@\* can be received without royal permis­sion. A proposition to enact any other new statute, or explain an old one, must be previously referred to the hebdomadal meeting, which, if it approve the proposition, draws up the terms in which it must be submitted to convocation ; and thus, in fact, takes the initiative in every measure.

In both houses the chancellor or vice-chancellor singly, and the two proctors jointly, are officially invested with an absolute *negative* upon all proceedings, except in elections. When the ne­gative of these officers is not interposed (an interposition nearly as rare as the royal veto in parliament), every question is decided by a majority. All elections, except for members of parliament, are made by a private scrutiny, in which the vice-chancellor presides, and the two proctors are scrutators. The members of parliament are chosen by the vice-chancellor, doctors, regent and non-regent masters, in convocation.

The Hebdomadal Meeting consists of the vice-chancellor, proc­tors, and heads of houses, who meet every Monday, and at other times when convened by the vice-chancellor, to deliberate upon all matters relating to the preservation of the privileges and liberties of the university, and to inquire into and consult respecting the due observance of statutes and customs. All letters of the chan­cellor, in the case of dispensations, which are addressed to convo­cation, must, previously to a recital in the house, be sanctioned by their approbation.

The Professorships are of two kinds ; those instituted by the crown, and those established by private endowment. The regius professors are appointed by the crown, the others according to the will of the founders. The professors as such have no direct con­cern with academical instruction or discipline. Attendance on their lectures is not, except in a few merely formal instances, ne­cessary for the attainment either of university rank or college emolument ; although, for the purpose of being admitted to holy orders, it is necessary for bachelors of arts to attend the lectures of the regius professor of divinity for a short time, unless they ob­tain a dispensation. The lectures of professors, therefore, are at­tended only by voluntary students.

The following is a list of the professorships, with the date of their foundation, and patronage.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Regius professorship of divinity. | 1636 | Crown. |
| — — — medicine. | 1535 | Crown. |
| — — — civil law. | 1546 | Crown. |
| — — — Greek. | 1546? | Crown. |
| — — — Hebrew. | 1546? | Crown. |
| Margaret professorship of divinity. | 1497 | Graduates of divinity. |
| Professorship of natural philosophy. | 1618 | Vice-Chancellor, president of Magdalen, and warden of All Souls. |
| Savilian professorship of geometry. | 1619 | Archbishop of Canterbury, lord chancellor, chancellor, &c. |
| Savilian professorship of astronomy. | 161» | Ditto ditto. |
| White’s professorship of moral philosophy. | 1621 | Vice-chancellor, proctors, &c. |
| Cambden professorship of ancient history. | 1622 | Chancellor, masters, and scholars. |
| Professorship of music. | 1626 | Proctors. |
| Laudian professorship of Arabic. | 1636 | Presidents of St John's and Magdalen, wardens of New College, |
|  |  | All Souls, and Merton. |
| Sherardian professorship of botany. | 1728 | College of Physicians. |
| Professorship of poetry. | 1708 | Members of convocation.@@8 |
| ⅛egius professorship of modern history and modem |  |  |
| language». | 1724 | Crown. |
| Professorship of Anglo-Saxon. | 1795 | Members of convocation. |
| Vinerian professorship of common law. | 1758 | Chancellor, masters, and scholars. |
| Clinical professorship. | 1772 | Members of convocation. |
| Lord Almoner’s readership in Arabic. | 1780 | Lord almoner. |
| Aldrichian professorship of medicine. | 1803 | Members of convocation. |
| — — chemistry. ∙ | 1803 | Members of convocation. |
| Professorship of political economy. | 1825 | Chancellor, masters, and scholars. |
| Boden professorship of Sanscrit. | 1832 | Chancellor, masters, and scholars. |
| Lee’s lectureship in anatomy. | 1750 |  |
| Besides, there are three readerships, in experimental philosophy, mineralogy, and geology, established by a grant from the | | |
| crown in the years 1810, 1813, and 1818 ; the two last of which are at present held by Dr Buckland, the celebrated geologist. | | |

The Public Orator is chosen by convocation, and must be at least either a bachelor in civil law, or master of arts. He is the secre­tary of the university, writes letters and addresses on public oc­casions, presents those on whom the honorary degree of master of arts is to be conferred, and delivers the annual Creweian oration alternately with the professor of poetry.

Every student admitted to the university is entered on the books of some college or hall. At the time of matriculation, he takes an oath to observe the statutes of the university, or submit to the penalties imposed for their violation, and subscribes his assent to the thirty-nine articles. If there is room for him in the college, he may commence residence immediately on matricu­lation ; but this is not necessarily required of him till three or four terms have elapsed. Lodging in the town is in no case allowed to men under twelve terms standing. There is no difference in respect of priority of degree, admission, &c. between gentlemen commoners and commoners. The only privileges of the former con­sist in a particular dress, and in a separate table at the college

@@@1 The Caroline statutes, transmitted by Charles I., and confirmed by convocation, are those only which relate to the hebdomadal meeting, to the nomination of collectors in Lent, to the election of proctors, and to the procuratorial cycle.

@@@, No professorship in the gift of convocation can be successively enjoyed by two persons of the same college.