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Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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Open University credits to replace the qualifying examination. The need for courses on taxonomy was also discussed.

Open Forum

Bibliographies. It was felt that bibliographies on techniques would be valuable. Dick Hendry suggested that there was a need for exchange on methods in taxidermy. The possibility of a central pool of dead birds should be investigated.

Seminars. It was agreed to look into the possibility of Liverpool as a venue in 1977. Other suggestions included Belfast and Leicester. Jan Dawson felt the need for a seminar on aspects of fumigation and the use of fumigants. Jill Royston expressed a need for practical sessions dealing with preservation techniques.

It was agreed to look into the possibility of a one day meeting in Cardiff in April/May and a three day meeting in December 1976.

At a meeting of the Committee held in Liverpool on Wednesday 4th February 1976 the following topics were discussed.

1. Constitution. Discussion took place on the need for a constitution. Geoff Hancock agreed to produce a paper for the next meeting and to write to the Secretary of the Museums Association to invite M.A. representation on the committee.
2. Charter. The relationship between the B.C.G. and the Institute of Biology was discussed together with the possible implication of the Institute seeking Chartership. It was agreed to invite the secretary of the Institute to speak at a future meeting.
3. B.R.C.'s. Geoff Stansfield reported that he had attended two meetings of the Society of County Museum Directors Ad Hoc Working Party on Environmental Data Centres. Eric Greenwood reported that a paper was being prepared setting out the case for B.R.C.'s being housed in museums. The committee would have the opportunity to consider and make comments on the draft.
4. National Surveys. It was agreed that as a matter of policy the Group should give its support to national documentation schemes concerning biological collections and in particular surveys being organised by Dr. Clevely of the Department of Palaeontology of the British Museum and the Linnean Society on archival material. A note about the surveys should be included in the Newsletter.
5. 1977 meeting. Eric Greenwood agreed to prepare proposals for the 1977 meeting in Liverpool on the theme - National surveys of biological collections.

The possibility of sponsorship was discussed.

Geoff Stansfield reported that the Systematics Association had asked whether the B.C.G. would be interested in a joint meeting with the G.C.G. on the use of natural history collections. Eric Greenwood agreed to pursue the matter.