

March 17, 1941

My dear Mather,

I have just written to Catchside telling him that I do not think the Rules can be interpreted compatibly with his retaining the Secretaryship after June next, nor that the Committee would be willing to propose an alteration of the rules for this purpose.

I have asked him to pass over the minutes books and other documents of the Society to your keeping, with a view to your carrying out in the future what he has hitherto done. I do not know what difficulty is anticipated with respect to printing, but if the Cambridge firm cannot ^{act} ~~work~~ efficiently on orders from you at Merton, we must change to a London firm. Perhaps, however, there is nothing in this.

I should like your advice as to your future colleague. The junior Secretary has not, so far, been a very active officer, and it may be you think that in future he ought to be more so. I do not at the moment see any possibility more suitable than Ford, but I should be glad to consider any alternative, if you care to suggest one. I forget whether any of the retiring Committeemen are strongly indicated as Vice-President. In any case I want your views here particularly.

p.t.o.

On our rule that three Committeemen retire annually, a difficulty arises which must frequently have occurred before, due to the fact that some Committeemen, through death, emigration, or promotion to another office, do not complete their terms, but must, none the less, be replaced on the Committee. There is no indication on the papers I have that this has ever occurred, or that there is any customary means of coping with it. I suppose what should be done is to assign to each Committeeman a nominal year of election, three years after which he is due to retire, and to replace Committeemen who fall out by substitutes, dating from the date at which the "over-study" is due to retire, so that these would serve four or five years in fact, of which the first one or two would be as surrogates. If you have done this, will you let me know how our present Committee, at present classified neatly three by three, should in fact be assigned to their respective years.

Yours sincerely,