

THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Now that the N.Z. Hydrological Society is affiliated with the Royal Society of N.Z., the following may be of interest to members.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY: From the original rules of Experiments, and the Reports thereof.

- I. No Experiment shall be made at the charge of the Society, but by order of the Society or Council.
- II. In order to the propounding and making of Experiments for the Society, consideration shall be had of the importance of any Experiment, to the discovery of any truth or axiom in nature, or to the use and benefit of mankind.
- III. Two or more Curators shall be appointed (if it may consist with convenience) of every Experiment or natural Observation, that cannot conveniently be made in the presence of the Society. Which Curators, or any two or more of them, shall (as soon as conveniently may be) meet together at time and place by them agreed on, to make the said Experiment or Observation; and also shall jointly draw up the Report of the matter of fact, in every such Experiment or Observation; or if any difference shall happen between them in their apprehensions thereabout, the same shall be related in the Report.
- IV. In all Reports of Experiments to be brought into the Society, the matter of fact shall be barely stated, without any prefaces, apologies, or rhetorical flourishes; and entered so in the Register-book, by order of the Society. And if any Fellow shall think fit to suggest any conjecture, concerning the causes of the phaenomena in such Experiments, the same shall be done apart; and so entered into the Register-book, if the Society shall order the entry thereof.

Statutes of the Royal Society, 1663

BISHOP SPRAT: Royal Society Plain English

They have therefore been most rigorous in putting in execution the only Remedy that can be found for this extravagance, and that has been a constant Resolution to reject all amplifications, digressions, and swellings of style; to return back to the primitive purity and shortness, when men deliver'd so many things almost in an equal number of words. They have exacted from all their members a close, naked, natural way of speaking, positive expressions, clear senses, a native easiness, bringing all things as near the Mathematical plainness as they can, and preferring the language of Artizans, Countrymen, and Merchants, before that of Wits or Scholars.

History of the Royal Society, 1667