adopted annual General Meding 1 Valuar Foreity. March 1901.

The London Water Bill.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the Fabian Society, while regretting that the Government has not made the London County Council the water authority, welcomes the acceptance by the Government of the two cardinal principles that the water supply should be under public control and that no special payment should be made for compulsory purchase.

It is of opinion that when the Bill is in Committee the Government should introduce amendments

- (a) Reducing the unwieldy size of the Water Board, and placing the dominant control in the hands of the representatives of the London County Council as the only body representing the common interests of all London;
- (b) Making the terms of payment the average market value in cash of the companies' stock, instead of giving the shareholders new stock yielding the old income but of a higher market value, thereby conferring on them the whole benefit of the superior credit of a public body, that is, a large cash bonus to which they have no claim;
- (c) Empowering the new water authority to redress the inequalities in the present system of charge in certain districts.