

of the several Acts relating to Health and Unemployment Insurance, as employers' contributions in respect of recognised teachers in their employment to whom the said Acts apply.

5.—(a) The Ministry may, at its discretion, pay allowances to pupil teachers and monitors in respect of the travelling and lodging expenses necessarily incurred by them in attending the annual examination in their final year of service. Pupil teachers and monitors who have received such allowance shall not be eligible to receive any allowance in respect of expenses incurred by them in attending a subsequent examination as candidates for recognition as teacher, or for admission to a training College.

(b) The Ministry may also, at its discretion, pay allowances towards travelling and lodging expenses incurred by candidate teachers in attending the annual examinations for the first time as candidates for recognition as teacher. No person is eligible to receive such allowance more than once.

6. These regulations may be cited as the Public Elementary Education (Miscellaneous Services) Regulations, 1924.

Given under the Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 19th day of June, 1924.

L. M'Quibban,

(L.S.)

Secretary.

Religious Instruction in Public Elementary Schools.

MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, NORTHERN IRELAND,
UNDER SECTION 29 OF THE EDUCATION ACT (NORTHERN
IRELAND), 1923.

1924. No. 4.

Whereas by Section 29 of the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1923 (in these Regulations referred to as "the Act"), it is enacted that the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland (in these Regulations referred to as "the Ministry") shall make such regulations as it may consider necessary for securing that the provisions of Part V. of the Act in regard to religious instruction

in public elementary schools are complied with in all schools recognised by the Ministry as public elementary schools, and, in particular, with respect to—

- (a) the times during which any religious observance may be practised, or religious instruction may be given ;
- (b) the making of arrangements for religious instruction in schools ; and
- (c) the framing of time-tables and the keeping of registers in connection with religious instruction :

And whereas by Section 99 (1) of the Act it is enacted that the Ministry may make all such regulations as are required to be made by it under the Act, or as appear to the Ministry to be necessary or proper for giving full effect to the Act ; and any such regulation shall, except as in the said section provided, have effect as if enacted in the Act, but may be varied or revoked by a subsequent regulation :

And whereas by Section 99 (2) of the Act it is enacted that before any regulations with respect to the giving of religious instruction in any school to or in respect of which grants out of moneys provided by Parliament are payable come into force, they shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament, and if, during the next ten days on which either House shall sit, either House presents an address to the Governor of Northern Ireland against the regulations or any part thereof, no further proceedings shall be taken thereon, but without prejudice to the making of new regulations :

Now therefore, the Ministry, by virtue of the powers hereinbefore mentioned, hereby makes the following Regulations :—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Education (Religious Instruction) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1924.

2.—(i) In these Regulations expressions to which a meaning is assigned by the Act shall have the same meaning.

(ii) The Interpretation Act, 1921, (12 Geo. 5, c. 4) applies for the purpose of the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the purpose of the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

(iii) The expression “secular instruction period” shall mean the period of time set apart in the Time-Table for giving elementary education, and the expression “religious instruction period” shall mean the time set apart in the Time-Table during which religious observances may be practised or religious instruction given.

3. Opportunities must be afforded to the pupils of all public elementary schools for receiving religious instruction to which their parents do not object.

4. The time or times at which religious instruction may be given must be clearly shown on the Time-Table of each school together with an indication, as far as may be practicable, of the general nature of such instruction ; and such time or times shall be either at the beginning or at the end, or at the beginning and the end of the secular instruction period :

Provided that religious instruction may be given at not more than one intermediate time, if there are circumstances affecting the attendance of the children or otherwise that render such a course necessary or desirable and if provision is made therefor in the Time-Table, under the following conditions :—

- (a) that the parents do not object to the attendance of their children for the purpose of religious instruction at such intermediate time, and
- (b) that any such arrangement shall not interfere in any way with the usefulness of the school by preventing children of any religious denomination from availing themselves of its other advantages or by subjecting those in attendance to any inconvenience, and
- (c) that a separate apartment shall (where practicable) be provided for the reception of those children who, according to these Regulations, should not be present thereat.

5. Where the secular instruction period precedes the religious instruction period the teacher must, before religious instruction begins, announce that the time for such instruction has arrived ; and there must be a sufficient interval between the times when the secular instruction period ends, and the religious instruction period begins, to enable those children whose parents object to their receiving the religious instruction about to be given to absent themselves from such instruction. The teacher is required to put up and keep up throughout the time for religious instruction within the view of all the pupils a notification containing the words " RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION " printed in large characters thereon.

6. No secular instruction, literary or other, may be carried on in the same apartment simultaneously with religious instruction, nor may the ordinary school business be interrupted or suspended by any religious exercise whatever except as provided in these Regulations. The books used for religious instruction must at the termination thereof be laid aside in the press or other place appropriated for keeping the school books.

7. The religious instruction of the pupils given in the schoolroom shall be under the control of the clergymen or teachers or other persons communicating it, except so far as the parents object and signify their disapproval. No other person shall be entitled to be present at or to interfere with the instruction save as under Regulation 12 hereof.

8. In voluntary schools which are vested in the Ministry or in Trustees under deeds to which the Ministry is a party those clergymen or teachers or other persons to whom the parents do not object must have access to the children in the schoolroom for the purpose of giving them religious instruction there during the time or times set apart in the Time-Table for such instruction.

9. In voluntary schools to which the immediately preceding regulation does not apply, the manager or school committee, as the case may be, shall determine whether any, and, if any, what religious instruction shall be given in the schoolroom. But, whether they do or do not permit it to be given in the schoolroom, the Time-Table for secular instruction must be so arranged that no children shall be deprived of opportunities for receiving elsewhere if necessary at reasonable times such religious instruction as their parents desire for them.

10.—(i) The reading of the Holy Scriptures, the teaching of catechisms, public prayer and all other religious exercises come within the regulations for religious instruction.

(ii). In provided and transferred schools, and in voluntary schools in which opportunities are required under the Act and Regulation 8 hereof to be afforded for religious instruction, the parents of the children have the right to require the education authority, the managers, or the school committee, as the case may be, to afford opportunities for the reading of the Holy Scriptures in the schoolroom under persons to whom the parents do not object.

11. The religious denomination of the children attending public elementary schools must be ascertained from the parents by the education authority, the manager or the school committee, as the case may be, and must, as so ascertained, be recorded in registers and roll books supplied by the Ministry, and such registers and roll books shall be open at the school at all reasonable times to inspection by the parent of any child attending the school or by any officer of the Ministry.

12. The attendance of children at religious instruction at the school shall be marked by the teachers on the ordinary staff of the school in the registers and roll books supplied by the Ministry. If the religious instruction is not given by members of the ordinary staff they shall nevertheless be in attendance at the school at the time or times set apart in the Time-Table for

religious instruction, so far as may be necessary for the purpose of recording the attendance of children as aforesaid and of seeing that the Regulations affecting such attendance are observed and for the maintenance of order and discipline.

13. In voluntary schools the manager or school committee, as the case may be, shall be responsible for the making of arrangements for the religious instruction to be given at the school, provided that due facilities shall be afforded for the exercise by clergymen, teachers or other persons of the rights referred to in Regulation 8 hereof in schools to which that Regulation applies.

14. In provided and transferred schools the education authority shall, at least twice in each year, if so requested by the clergymen of the various religious denominations in the vicinity of the schools, communicate to them the names of the children in attendance thereat who belong to the respective religious denominations.

15. If arrangements for religious instruction to which a parent does not object are not made at the school, the child of such parent may not be permitted to remain in attendance during the time or times at which religious instruction is being given.

Provided that arrangements may be made by two or more religious denominations for a common syllabus of religious instruction to be given to children whose parents do not object thereto by clergymen, teachers or other persons belonging to any of the denominations entering into such an arrangement.

16. In all provided and transferred schools, and in voluntary schools in which opportunities are required under the Act and Regulations 8 hereof to be afforded for religious instruction, the school Time-Table must provide that at least one half-hour daily, or its reasonable equivalent within each week, shall be set apart for that purpose.

17. In giving effect to these Regulations due regard shall be had to parental right and authority, and accordingly no child shall receive or be present at any religious instruction of which its parents disapprove.

18. In case of doubt or dispute as to the meaning or effect of any of these Regulations the decision of the Ministry thereon shall be final.

19. These Regulations shall come into force on and after the first day of July, nineteen hundred and twenty-four.

Given under the Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this eleventh day of March, 1924.

L. M. Quibban,

(T.S.)

Secretary.