VII.—Physical Education.

The diploma of any institution approved by the Ministry.

For Preparatory Teachers.

For general preparatory teaching except in languages other than English :—

1. The successful completion of a course of training in a training college recognised by the Ministry for public elementary school teachers in Northern Ireland.

2. The certificates as elementary teachers of the Board of Education, England, or the Scottish Education Department.

3. The teacher's certificate of the National Froebel Union.

Teachers possessing the qualifications required for secondary teachers may be certified to teach the same subjects in preparatory schools.

Public Elementary Schools : Regulations.

Regulations, dated 16th March, 1937, made by the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland, under the Education Acts (Northern Ireland), 1923 to 1935, after consultation with the Ministry of Finance and duly laid before Parliament.

1937. No. 17.

The Public Elementary Schools Regulations, 1934 (Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland, 1934, No. 40) as amended by the Public Elementary Schools Regulations, 1934, Amending Regulations, No. 1, 1935, Amending Regulations, No. 2, 1936, and Amending Regulations, No. 3, 1936 (Statutory Rules and Orders of Northern Ireland, 1935, No. 69 ; 1936, No. 83 and 1936, No. 159 respectively) which Regulations as so amended are herein referred to as " The Principal Regulations " are hereby amended as follows :—

1. The following sub-section is hereby added to Article 28 of the Principal Regulations :—

" **28.**—(*f*) Where a manager is satisfied that an annual examination in religious or Bible instruction cannot conveniently be held in a school without reducing the period of secular instruction on the day of the examination below the minimum of 3½ hours allowed by Article 35 (*e*) on such day, the said day need not be counted as one of the fifty school days referred to in sub-section (*c*) of this Article : Provided that the provisions of this sub-section may be availed of only if the provisions of sub-section (*e*) of Article 35 are not being availed of in the same school year and only on one school day in that year."

2. Article 54 of the Principal Regulations is hereby repealed and the following Article substituted therefor :—

"**54.**—(*a*) To warrant the appointment in any "large school" of an assistant teacher for the year beginning 1st July, hereinafter called a "permanent assistant," the "appointment average" must have reached the appropriate minimum prescribed in Article 40 (*a*) for the year ending on the previous 31st March : provided, however, that if instruction in one or more of the following subjects, viz., Domestic Economy, Handwork, Horticulture, Nature Study, Elementary Science is given by public elementary school teachers on the staff of the school in special rooms suitably and properly equipped, the number of "permanent assistants" may be increased by one if there has been an average daily attendance for the same yearly period of not less than 250 pupils in fourth and higher standards, by two if the same average daily attendance has been not less than 500 pupils and by three if it has been not less than 750 pupils.

(*b*) The number of "permanent assistants" in a school shall not be reduced on account of a decline in average attendance in any case in which the Ministry is satisfied that the insufficiency of average attendance has been due to epidemic disease or other exceptional cause."

3. Article 85 of the Principal Regulations is hereby repealed and the following Article substituted therefor :—

"**85.**—(*a*) Where the absence of a teacher owing to illness does not exceed either five successive working days or a total of ten working days in any calendar year, the Manager's statement will be accepted as evidence of the necessity for the absence ; but if the absence is for longer than either of these periods, a medical certificate, specifying the nature of the illness and certifying the incapacity of the teacher for the performance of duty, must be furnished to the Ministry as a necessary condition of the allowance of salary.

For the purpose of these regulations the expression "working day" shall mean any day other than a Saturday or a Sunday on which the school was in operation or would have been in operation but for the absence of the teacher.

(*b*) Except as provided in sub-section (*c*) of this Article, a teacher who is absent owing to illness shall not be entitled to salary unless a qualified substitute approved by the Manager is employed.

(*c*) The employment of a substitute shall not be required during an absence owing to illness which does not exceed five successive working days, or during the first five working days

of a longer period of such absence. If the services of a substitute cannot be obtained when required, salary may nevertheless be allowed to the absent teacher, but the Ministry shall deduct from such salary a sum equivalent to the full remuneration of a substitute (of the same sex as the absent teacher) at the appropriate rate set forth in subsection (e) of this Article, for the working days on which such substitute should have been employed, or where such sum is in excess of the salary of the absent teacher for the said days, then a sum equivalent to such salary:

Provided, however, that in no case shall the absent teacher be entitled to salary for any period of absence, during which a substitute has not been employed, in excess of a total of 23 working days in any calendar year.

(*d*) Absence owing to illness shall not, except as hereinafter provided, be sanctioned for more than six months continuously, or for more than six months in any calendar year. For this purpose a period of absence includes any days of closing occurring therein. Resumption of duty for periods of less than four weeks during which the school was in operation will not be regarded as interrupting the continuity of the six months' absence.

If, however, a teacher who has been absent owing to illness for a period of six months continuously, or for a period of six months in any calendar year produces medical evidence satisfactory to the Ministry to show that it is reasonably certain that he will be fully restored to health and able to resume work within a further period of not more than six months, the Ministry may continue his recognition, but in no case of absence owing to illness can extension of recognition be granted for any period beyond the date on which the total duration of absence through illness will have amounted to twelve months reckoned over a period of forty-eight months.

The appointment of a teacher who has been absent on sick leave for a period of six months within the meaning of this Article, or where an extension of this period has been sanctioned for such extended period, shall be automatically terminated from the day following the completion of that period unless the teacher is able to resume regular service on that day; and in the event of his being re-appointed at a later date such re-appointment will, as a rule, be regarded as an entirely new appointment. Where, however, the Ministry is satisfied that this provision would operate with undue harshness in any particular case it may, at its discretion, permit the restoration of privileges formerly enjoyed in the event of the teacher's re-appointment.

In any case of prolonged illness the Ministry will require the production of a medical certificate of restoration to health before permitting the teacher to resume service.

(*e*) Substitutes employed during absences owing to illness shall receive remuneration at the following rates :—

For Principals and Assistants—Men substitutes 12/– per working day ;

Women substitutes 10/– per working day.

For Junior Assistant Mistresses—Women substitutes 8/– per working day.

Where under the terms of the foregoing sub-sections of this Article it is required that a substitute be employed, one-third of the remuneration payable in respect of such service shall be provided by the absent teacher and the remaining two-thirds by the Ministry. The Ministry shall remit to the substitute the whole amount of such remuneration and shall recover the said proportion of one-third from the absent teacher by deduction from his salary or otherwise. Where it is not required that a substitute be employed no portion of the remuneration payable to the substitute in respect of any such service shall be provided by the Ministry, but the Ministry shall remit to the substitute the whole amount of such remuneration and shall recover an equivalent sum from the absent teacher in the manner aforesaid.

Provided, however, that no payment shall be made by the Ministry to a substitute in respect of service on any day or days for which salary is not allowable to the absent teacher.

(*f*) The Ministry may allow salary for brief absences from school, with the permission of the Manager, owing to the occurrence of serious illness or death in the family of the teacher ; but, save in very exceptional circumstances, the period of such absences in respect of which payment may be made may not exceed three working days. Within similar limits, the Ministry may also allow salary to teachers for periods of absence from duty due to other exceptional causes where it is satisfied that the circumstances are such as warrant it in taking this action. The cause of absence should always be inserted on the school return. Absence for the purpose of transacting private business should be discouraged, and payment shall not be allowed for such absence except in very exceptional circumstances.