Nursery Schools.

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 FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AND DULY LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

1937. No. 18.

NOTE :—The foregoing Regulations, being of temporary effect, have not been printed at length in this volume.

REGULATIONS, DATED 14TH APRIL, 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 FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AND DULY LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

1937. No. 30.

In accordance with the provisions of the Education Acts (Northern Ireland), 1923 to 1935, the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland (hereinafter called "the Ministry") after consultation with the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland, hereby makes the following Regulations :—

1. These Regulations shall supersede the Nursery Schools Regulations, 1937 (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1937, No. 18).

2. Subject to the conditions herein laid down, the Ministry may grant aid to Nursery Schools.

3. The school must be under the control of an approved committee, which must act under an approved scheme setting forth its constitution and defining its functions. A copy of this approved scheme must be deposited with the Ministry, and no variation from or departure from its provisions may be made without the approval of the Ministry.

4. The committee must appoint one of its members to act as correspondent.

5. The Ministry must be satisfied that the school is not conducted for private profit, nor farmed out to the Superintendent or other person. The income of the school from all sources must be devoted to the use of the school and for approved purposes.

6. There must be sent to the Ministry at such date and in such form as may be prescribed a statement of accounts of the school

for each school year certified by a qualified accountant and supported by such vouchers and other evidence as the Ministry may require. The accounts of the school must be kept in such form as to show readily the information required by the Ministry and must be open to inspection at any time by the officers of the Ministry, and all such vouchers as may be required in support of any item must be forthcoming.

7. The premises in which a Nursery School is conducted must be reasonably suitable for their purpose in respect of situation, accommodation, furniture and equipment, and facilities for safe and speedy exit in case of fire. They must be adequately lighted, heated, ventilated and cleansed, and provided with proper facilities for the recreation of the children.

8. The Ministry must be satisfied that sufficient opportunity for rest, meals and recreation is provided, and that adequate arrangements are made for attending to the health, nourishment and physical welfare of the children.

9. No child may be admitted to a nursery school before attaining the age of two years, or retained therein after the date prescribed for school attendance in accordance with the Education Acts (Northern Ireland), 1923 to 1935, and regulations made thereunder.

10. The attendance of the children must be recorded in the books prescribed for the purpose in accordance with the instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry, and " average daily attendance " shall have the same meaning and be calculated in the same manner as is prescribed in the Regulations for Public Elementary Schools.

11. A nursery school must be in operation for not less than 200 days in each school year ending 30th June ; if not in operation for this period, the salary payable by the Ministry under Article 15 to the Superintendent may be disallowed for the days of excess closing. The school must be open at all reasonable times to inspection by officers of the Ministry.

12. The school must be conducted on approved lines and adequately staffed. It must be under the control of a Superintendent, who should have the assistance of at least one " helper " if the average daily attendance does not exceed 25, at least two if the average daily attendance exceeds 25 but does not exceed 50, and so on. If the average daily attendance is 50 or more an Assistant Superintendent should be employed ; if it is 80 or more two Assistant Superintendents should be employed.

13. Superintenderts and Assistant Superintendents should be persons with a special aptitude for nursery school work. They should have satisfactorily completed a course of training, approved by the Ministry, in a recognised training college, and should, either during such course or subsequently have attended a special course of training to fit them for work in nursery schools : provided that the claims of persons serving in a nursery school on or before 1st July, 1937, may receive special consideration.

The " helpers " should be girls who have attended school up to at least the age of 15, and who have an aptitude for this type of work. They should not, as a rule, be employed in nursery schools after 21 years of age.

14. The Committee shall enter into an agreement with the Superintendent on a form approved by the Ministry.

15. Where the above conditions are fulfilled, the Ministry may pay the Superintendent on the scale of salary, including Principal's Grant, which would be applicable to her if she were recognised as principal teacher in a public elementary school of the same size :

Provided :

(*a*) that the payment of this salary by the Ministry shall be further conditional on the annual local contribution to the funds of the school (including any grant from the education authority, but excluding payments made by parents in respect of their children in the school) amounting to not less than a sum—at least equivalent to the initial rate of the Superintendent's salary scale, including Principal's Grant—which shall be prescribed by the Ministry from time to time, after consultation with the Ministry of Finance, in the case of each school ;

(*b*) that if in any year ended 30th June the local contributions fall short of the sum prescribed by the Ministry, the Ministry may suspend further grants of salary to the school until the deficiency is made good ;

(*c*) that grants of salary shall not be made to a school unless the Ministry is satisfied that an average daily attendance of at least fifteen children will be maintained ; such grants shall be withdrawn from a school if the average daily attendance falls below ten for each of two consecutive years ending on 30th June.

16. In any case of doubt or difficulty as to the construction or application of any of these Regulations, the decision of the Ministry shall be final.

17. These Regulations shall take effect from 1st October, 1936. They may be cited as the "Nursery Schools Regulations, 1937."

Given under the Seal of the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland this 14th day of April, 1937.

(L.S.) (Signed), *A. N. Bonaparte Wyse,*
Secretary.

Preparatory, Intermediate and Secondary Schools: Teachers.

REGULATIONS, DATED 5TH MAY, 1937, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, NORTHERN IRELAND, UNDER SECTIONS 65, 69 AND 77 OF THE EDUCATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1923 (13 & 14 GEO. 5, CH. 21), AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND LAID BEFORE PARLIAMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 99 (2) OF THE ACT AFORESAID.

1937. No. 37.

DEFINITIONS.

1. For the purpose of these Regulations, unless otherwise stated or unless the context otherwise requires:—

(*a*) "The Act" is the Education Act (Northern Ireland), 1923 and any Act amending that Act.

(*b*) "The Ministry" is the Ministry of Education for Northern Ireland.

(*c*) An "education authority" is an education authority for the purposes of the Act and includes any council of an urban county district acting as an education authority under Part IV of the Act and any committee of an education authority or of such council which has the power of appointment and employment of teachers in recognized preparatory, intermediate, secondary or technical schools.

(*d*) "Approved" means approved by the Ministry.

(*e*) "Recognized" means recognized by the Ministry.

(*f*) A "recognized class" is a class of one or more pupils recognized for the purposes of grants from the Ministry.