SECOND SCHEDULE.

Regulations Revoked.

The National Health Insurance (Insurance Practitioners' and Pharmaceutical Committees) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1930. (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1930. No. 175).

The National Health Insurance (Insurance Practitioners' and Pharmaceutical Committees) Amendment Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1931. (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1931. No. 127.).

The National Health Insurance (Insurance Practitioners' and Pharmaceutical Committees) Amendment Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1933. (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1933. No. 111).

Medical Benefit Council.

REGULATIONS, DATED 22ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 1936, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR NORTHERN IRELAND UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT, 1936.

1936. No. 177.

The Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the National Health Insurance Act, 1936, and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations :—

PART I.

General.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the National Health Insurance (Medical Benefit Council) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1936, and shall come into operation on the first day of January, 1937.

2.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the respective meanings hereby assigned to them :—

"The Act" means the National Health Insurance Act, 1936 ;

"The Minister" means the Minister of Labour for Northern Ireland ;

"The Ministry" means the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland ;

"Council" means the Medical Benefit Council ;

"Society" means a Society approved under the Act ;

"Member" in relation to a Society, means a member of a Society for the purposes of the Act;

"Practitioner" means a registered medical practitioner who is on the list of medical practitioners published by the Ministry.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1921, applies to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Part II.

General Provisions relating to appointment of members.

3. The Ministry shall notify each body entitled to appoint or take part in the appointment of members of the Council, of the number of members that such body is entitled to appoint, and of the time within which such appointment, if made, must be notified to the Ministry.

4. If a body fails to make a valid appointment within the limit of time above-mentioned, the Minister shall appoint a person to fill any vacancy occurring thereby.

5. If the notification of appointment is of such a nature as to cause any uncertainty as to what person or persons it is intended to appoint, the appointment shall be invalid:

Provided that no misnomer or inaccurate description of any person or place shall invalidate the appointment where, in the opinion of the Ministry, the description of the person or place is such as to be commonly understood.

6. Any question arising as to the validity of, or otherwise in connection with, any appointment under these Regulations shall be determined by the Ministry.

Part III.

Composition of Council.

7. The total number of members of the Council shall be thirty-two.

Appointment of representatives of Insured Persons.

8. The number of representatives of insured persons entitled to serve as members of the Council shall be eight, who shall be appointed as follows:—

(*a*) Five shall be nominated by such Association of Societies as the Ministry may select;

(*b*) Two shall be appointed by the Minister so as to represent members of those Societies to whom it is desirable in his opinion to give representation and to whom representation has not been afforded by the persons nominated under clause (*a*) of this Regulation; and

(*c*) One shall be appointed by the Minister so as to represent, in his opinion, deposit contributors.

Appointment of representatives of Employers of Insured Persons.

9. The number of representatives of employers of insured persons entitled to serve as members of the Council shall be eight, who shall be appointed as follows :—

(*a*) Two shall be nominated by the Belfast Chamber of Commerce ;

(*b*) One shall be nominated by the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce ;

(*c*) Two shall be nominated by the Minister, after consultation with a body which is, in his opinion, representative of employers in the agricultural industry ; and

(*d*) Three shall be appointed by the Minister, after consultation with bodies which are in his opinion, representative of the employers of insured persons, so as to represent the employers of insured persons, to whom representation has not been afforded by the persons nominated under clauses (*a*), (*b*) or (*c*) of this Regulation.

Appointment of representatives of Medical Practitioners and of persons undertaking the supply of drugs, medicines, etc.

10. The number of representatives of practitioners entitled to serve as members of the Council shall be five who shall be nominated by and from the members of the Central Insurance Practitioners' Committee.

11. The number of representatives of persons undertaking the supply of drugs, medicines and appliances entitled to serve as members of the Council shall be three, who shall be appointed by the Minister after consultation with a body which is, in his opinion, representative of persons carrying on the business of pharmaceutical chemist in Northern Ireland.

Appointment of members by the Minister.

12. The remaining members of the Council (that is to say, eight) shall be appointed by the Minister.

Part IV.

Term of Office, Casual Vacancies, etc.

13. Members of the Council appointed under Part III of these Regulations shall, subject to the provisions of Regulation 16, hold office for a period of three years from the first day of October in the year of their appointment.

14. A member of the Council who desires to resign his membership thereof shall give notice in writing to the Secretary to the Council.

15. If a member of the Council has not attended any meeting of the Council or of any sub-committee during a period of one year, the Secretary to the Council shall inform the Ministry and unless the Ministry is satisfied that the absence was due to illness or other reasonable cause, the Ministry shall declare that his seat on the Council has become vacant.

16.—(1) If a member of the Council is declared bankrupt or compounds by deed with his creditors or makes an arrangement or composition with his creditors by deed or otherwise, he shall thereupon immediately become disqualified and shall cease to be a member of the Council and his seat shall become vacant.

(2) Where a person becomes so disqualified by being declared bankrupt or compounding or making an arrangement or composition as aforesaid the disqualification, as regards subsequent appointment, shall, in the case of bankruptcy, cease on his obtaining his order of discharge, and shall, in the case of a compounding or composition as aforesaid, cease on payment of his debts in full and shall, in the case of an arrangement as aforesaid, cease on his obtaining his certificate of discharge.

17. In the event of a casual vacancy occurring by reason of the death, resignation or disqualification of any member of the Council, or from any other cause the Secretary to the Council shall forthwith inform the Ministry and the Ministry shall arrange that a person to fill the vacancy shall be appointed in the same manner and by the same person or body as the member vacating the seat had been appointed.

18. A person appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall hold office during the remainder of the term of office of the person in whose place he is appointed.

Part V.

Procedure.

19.—(1) As soon as may be after the appointment of the Council, the Minister shall appoint one member of the Council to be Chairman, and the Council shall appoint one member to be Vice-Chairman.

(2) The provisions of these Regulations with respect to the term of office of members of the Council shall apply with respect to the term of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

Provided that, if at any time the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, by death, resignation or for some other reason, ceases to hold office or to be a member, the Minister or Council as the case may be

shall, as soon as convenient thereafter, appoint some member in his stead for the unexpired period of his term of office.

(3) At every meeting of the Council the Chairman, if present, shall preside.

(4) If the Chairman is absent from any meeting, the Vice-Chairman shall, if present, preside, and if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are both absent, the members present at the meeting shall elect from among themselves some person to act as Chairman for that meeting.

20. The proceedings of the Council shall not be invalidated by any vacancy in their number or by any defect in the appointment of any member of the Council.

21.—(1) Minutes of the proceedings at each meeting and a record of the attendance of the members shall be duly kept by the Secretary.

(2) Unless and until the contrary is proved, every meeting in respect of the proceedings whereof a minute has been made in accordance with the above provision shall be deemed to have been duly convened and held, and all the members present at the meeting shall be deemed to have been duly qualified.

22.—(1) The Council may from time to time appoint such sub-committees as they may think expedient, and subject to the approval of the Ministry, may delegate to any sub-committee so appointed any of the powers and duties of the Council :

Provided that minutes of the proceedings of every meeting of a sub-committee and a record of the attendance of the members of the sub-committee shall be duly kept and laid before the Council at its next meeting.

(2) Sub-committees may consist wholly or partly of members of the Council.

23. Subject to these Regulations and with the approval of the Ministry, the Council may make, vary and revoke standing orders for the regulation of the proceedings and business of the Council and of any sub-committees of the Council :

Provided that such standing orders shall provide that—

(*a*) A meeting of the Council shall be held at least once in every six months ; and

(*b*) A quorum shall in no case be less than one-fourth of the total members of the Council.

PART VI.

24. The under-mentioned Regulations are hereby revoked but such revocation shall not affect the validity of any rules or orders made or of any election or appointment held or made thereunder.

The National Health Insurance (Medical Benefit Council) Regulations, 1930. (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1930. No. 109).

The National Health Insurance (Medical Benefit Council) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1931. (S.R. & O. of Northern Ireland, 1931. No. 141).

Given under the Official Seal of the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland this 22nd day of December, in the year One thousand nine hundred and thirty-six.

(L.S.) *W. A. B. Iliff,*
Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland.

Medical Benefit Regulations.

THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE (MEDICAL BENEFIT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1936, DATED DECEMBER 16TH, 1936, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT, 1936.

1936. No. 168.

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS.

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12. Selection of practitioner.
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