Health Authorities

Medical Officers, Qualifications and Duties

REGULATIONS, DATED 18TH FEBRUARY, 1947, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDER SECTIONS TEN AND TWENTY-EIGHT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1946.

1947. No. 19

The Ministry of Health and Local Government for Northern Ireland (in these Regulations referred to as "the Ministry"), in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections ten and twenty-eight of the Public Health and Local Government (Administrative Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland), 1946 (in these Regulations referred to as "the Act") and of all other powers in that behalf enabling the Ministry, hereby makes the following regulations, that is to say :—

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Health Authorities (Qualifications and Duties of Medical Officers) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1947.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1921, shall apply for the purpose of the interpretation of these Regulations in like manner as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

2. A person shall not be qualified to be appointed to the office of Medical Officer of Health or Deputy Medical Officer of Health of a county or county borough unless—

(*a*) (i) he is a registered medical practitioner and is also registered in the medical register as the holder of a diploma in sanitary science, public health, or state medicine ; and

(ii) he has had, for the office of Medical Officer of Health, not less than five years' experience in general public health duties in a whole-time capacity as a medical officer of health, deputy medical officer of health or assistant medical officer of health under a local authority : provided that any period of experience, not exceeding two years, that he has had in comparable duties in time of war emergency in one of the medical branches of the armed forces of the Crown may be counted in computing the aforesaid period of five years ;

(*b*) he produces satisfactory evidence that his health and character are good ;

(*c*) he is a natural born British subject and the son of a father also a natural born British subject, and has during the whole

of the period of five years ending on the date of appointment been resident in the United Kingdom : provided that any period during which he has served outside the United Kingdom in time of war emergency in the armed forces of the Crown or in the mercantile marine shall be treated as a period during which he has been resident in the United Kingdom ; and

(*d*) at the date of his appointment he is not more than forty-five years of age : provided that this age limit shall not apply in the case of a person holding an office under a local authority at the time of his appointment.

Provided that, in the case of existing medical superintendent officers of health, they shall be deemed to be qualified to fill the post of Medical Officer of Health, and, in the case of existing deputy or assistant medical superintendent officers of health, the post of Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

3. A Medical Officer of Health of a county or county borough shall observe and execute all lawful orders and directions of the health authority and, in addition to the duties imposed on him by or under the Act or assigned to him by the health authority, he shall, as Medical Officer of Health of a county or county borough, carry out the following duties :—

(*a*) he shall inform himself as far as practicable respecting all matters affecting or likely to affect the public health in the area for which he is appointed ; and

(*b*) he shall as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year make a report to the health authority for the year ending on that date on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the area, containing, in addition to any other matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, such information as may from time to time be required.

4. A Deputy Medical Officer of Health of a county or county borough shall perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Medical Officer of Health of the county or county borough as the case may be or by the health authority.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Local Government for Northern Ireland this eighteenth day of February, One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven, in the presence of

(L.S.) *Thos. Elwood,*
Assistant Secretary.