

Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board.

Soon after the Board commenced its work, applications were received from the Sanitary Institute and other bodies interested in the training and examination of candidates for appointments of sanitary inspectors for aid from the Technical Education Board. The Sanitary Institute at that time was the only body conducting examinations, and recognized by the Local Government Board. The National Health Society and the British (now Royal) Institute of Public Health, as well as the Plumbers' Company, were all desirous of taking part in these examinations, and some purely educational institutions engaged in teaching sanitary science also had claims for consideration. The fees charged by the Sanitary Institute were in excess of the actual cost of conducting the examination, and were very high considering the means of many of the candidates. The profits made by the institute upon the examinations were devoted to the maintenance of the Parkes Museum. The Local Government Board favoured the establishment of a joint examining body, but this was for a long time resisted by the Sanitary Institute, presumably on the ground that the institute would thus be deprived of the source of income available for the maintenance of the Parkes Museum. It was felt by some members of the Technical Education Board that as the London County Council were specially interested in the examination of sanitary inspectors, and the Board was likely to contribute largely to the cost of their training in the public institutions associated with it, that the County Council or the Board should be represented upon the body to be ultimately intrusted with the conduct of the examinations; but, apart from this consideration, the Board thought it undesirable to make grants to any of the sanitary societies which were competing for the right of conducting the examinations in question until some arrangement for the formation of a joint examining board, approved by the Local Government Board, had been arrived at, and accordingly no grants have been made to the Sanitary Institute or any similar body. On September 21st a notice appeared in the "Times" to the effect that an association was about to be formed under the name of the Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board, and was applying to the Board of Trade to be registered with limited liability without the addition of the word "Limited" to its name. The objects of the association as set forth in the "Times" are, briefly, the following—

- (a) To institute examinations of candidates for the office of sanitary inspector or inspector of nuisances under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, or any subsequent Act of Parliament or order of the Local Government Board, and to grant certificates.
- (b) To prescribe courses of study and technical training.
- (c) To make and maintain a register of persons to whom certificates of competency have been granted.

The Board's secretary has ascertained that the constitution of the proposed association has been approved, after protracted negotiations, by the Local Government Board, and he has also had the opportunity of perusing the memorandum of association as submitted to the Board of Trade. The association is to consist of three persons nominated by the Local Government Board, with the assent of the Sanitary Institute, together with such a number of representatives of the Sanitary Institute as may make up five-twelfths of the whole number of members of the association. The other representatives are to be appointed by the National Health Society, the Royal (late British) Institute of Public Health, the Carpenters' Company, the Plumbers' Company, the Royal Institute of British Architects, and two or three other professional societies. The local authorities obtain no representation unless they can secure such representation indirectly through the nominations in the hands of the Local Government Board, and educational institutions, such as university colleges and polytechnics, receive no representation.

There is a provision in the memorandum of association which is believed to be unique, and which enables the constitution to be changed by resolution of the association with the approval of the Local Government Board, and there is another provision which enables the Local Government Board to nominate other bodies besides those mentioned in the memorandum to be represented upon the association. This last provision may at no distant date enable local authorities to obtain representation, but there is no guarantee that such would be its effect, and should the Local Government Board take action under this provision the Sanitary Institute will be entitled to an increase in its own representation, so that the number of its representatives may continue to be five-twelfths of the total number of members less three. There is no limit assigned to the fee which may be charged for examination or certificates, but the whole of the surplus income is to be devoted to the maintenance of the Parkes Museum. It is further provided that the examination board shall undertake no teaching work, and that the societies represented upon it shall not conduct any examinations for sanitary inspectors. As the memorandum has been approved by the Local Government Board, we think it is undesirable for the Technical Education Board to take any steps with a view to opposing the request for a Board of Trade licence, but there is reason to believe that some other bodies have entered objections.

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