

I ruled that the failure of the newly Installed Z., to announce the selection of his appointed officers, on the night of Installation, did not render the Installation illegal.

4. Three questions were submitted, which are set forth with the answers given :

(a) "No Chapter shall be opened unless there are present nine Royal Arch Masons, etc."—I am undecided as to what constitutes a quorum for the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master degrees. Does this clause of the Constitution mean, that nine Royal Arch Masons must be present to constitute a quorum for the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master degree ?

Ans.—Three rule a Lodge ; five hold a Lodge ; seven or more make it perfect, and I would therefore rule, that there must be, to make it legal, seven members present at a meeting of Mark Master Masons, and Most Excellent Master Masons.

(b) Is it permissible to confer any part, or all of the Work of the Mark Master and Most Excellent Master degrees, on more than one candidate, at one and the same time ? If so, at what point in each of these degrees is such action allowable ?

Ans.—It is not contemplated, that more than one Candidate should receive the degrees at the same time, nor is any provision made for so doing. Custom, however, has countenanced the entrance of an unlimited number of Candidates for the Most Excellent Master's degree, and I think this may be continued. In the Mark Master degree one Candidate only, should be admitted, until after the obligation.

(c) At what point in the order of conducting the Most Excellent Master Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter should a Candidate be examined as to his proficiency in the preceding degree ?

Ans.—Candidates should be examined for proficiency in the Mark Master Masons' degree in a Lodge opened in that degree. Likewise in the Most Excellent Master degree before advancement. The time of