

mission, and permission being refused, should notwithstanding proceed to initiate the candidate, would be guilty of a very serious offence, justifying the withdrawal of its warrant. If the refusal to grant permission is, in the opinion of the lodge asking it, dictated by unworthy motives, it would be competent for it to apply to the M. W. the Grand Master for a dispensation to initiate, laying all the facts before him. As a rule, however, dispensations for such purposes are not granted.

QUESTION.—Is it necessary to obtain the consent of the Grand Master before a Lodge of Instruction can be held?

ANSWER.—No. A Lodge of Instruction can be held under the sanction of a regular warranted lodge, or by special license and authority of the Grand Master, or District Deputy Grand Master. Either mode is equally constitutional.

QUESTION.—A Brother is elected Secretary of a Lodge but declines to be invested. Is it competent for the lodge at once to elect some other brother and proceed to invest him; and if this is done, is the election regular, or may it be set aside?

ANSWER.—The election is not regular and may be set aside. The proper course, when an elective officer declines to be invested, is to order a new election for the next regular meeting, giving notice in the summons of such election, that all brethren may have due notice of it. Should the course stated by our correspondent be pursued, it is competent for any brother, at the next meeting, after the minutes are confirmed, to move a reconsideration of the election upon the ground of its irregularity.

QUESTION.—Has the D. D. G. M. the right to open the Lodge, the W. M. and P. M. being present? And if he has the right, is it not one more to be "honoured in the breach than the observance?"

ANSWER.—The D. D. G. M. has not power to open the Lodge without the consent of the Master. The Lodge being opened, however, when the D. D. G. M. enters he may assume the east and the gavel, with the W. M. on his right hand.

QUESTION.—When a question has been discussed and a motion put, has the presiding officer the right to grant the ballot; and, if so, what would be the effect of contrary votes: that is to say if the Lodge, by an open vote, approves of a certain action and the ballot showing disapproval? I can well understand why a ballot is granted in Grand Lodge, but cannot see why it should be so in private Lodges.

ANSWER.—The Constitution declares the mode of taking votes in Lodges. For candidates for initiation, or members for joining or affiliation, the vote is taken by ballot, the ballot in such cases being secret. For election of officers the vote is taken by written ballot, which is not necessarily secret. On all other questions the vote is taken in the usual masonic manner by holding out the right hand, which uplifted hands the deacons are to count. In Grand Lodge the ballot is used on ordinary motions, if required by any member, for the reason that each member represents from one to ten votes, and the uplifted hand does not afford a fair criterion of the numbers for and against the motion.

QUESTION.—Is it necessary that the By-laws of a Lodge be submitted to and approved by the Board of General Purposes before they take effect?

ANSWER.—Certainly not. The Board of General Purposes has nothing whatever to do with them. The Constitution, section 3; "of private Lodges," provides the proper course, as follows: "Every Lodge has the power of framing By-laws for its own government,