

proper knowledge of parliamentary law, be prepared to meet. And to understand this, it is most convenient to supply a sample.

Let us suppose then, that with such a provision in the by-laws as that already cited, there is a clause which enacts that "the Lodge shall meet at 8 o'clock, p. m. on the first Monday of every month." Now, an alteration may be proposed to strike out "first Monday," and insert "second Wednesday." This being proposed in writing, read at a regular meeting, and recorded on the minutes, becomes a special order for the next regular meeting; and, being then read a second time, will be adopted, if two-thirds of the members present concur. But when the proposition is before the Lodge for final action, some member may propose, as an amendment to this amendment, to strike out "Wednesday" and insert "Thursday." And it has been contended, that such an amendment to the amendment could be submitted and be acted on; but such a doctrine is altogether erroneous. The original amendment was to change the time of meeting from the "first Monday" to the "second Wednesday," and this only can be before the Lodge for consideration, since it, only, has gone through the regular and prescribed form of two readings. The amendment to the amendment, which would make, if adopted, an alteration from the "first Monday" to the "second Thursday," has not been proposed at a previous meeting has not been laid over, and has not passed through a second reading. Not having come before the Lodge in accordance with the forms provided in the by-laws for alterations or amendments, it would be out of order for the presiding officer to entertain it.

In other words, it may be laid down as a rule that, no repeal, alteration, or amendment of the by-laws having been proposed, can, at any future time in the proceedings, be subjected to change or amendment. The proposed alteration must be presented for final action in the very words, and even letters, in which it was originally proposed. The proper time for offering the amendment to the amendment would be when the former was first proposed. Both the amendment and the rider to it would thus go through the regular course, and both would come up for a second reading, and for action at the subsequent meeting. It is scarcely necessary to say, that in that case the amendment to the amendment would be first in order of consideration.

It is admitted that no change in the by-laws of a Lodge can become operative until approved and confirmed by the Grand Lodge. But an inexperienced Master will sometimes permit a motion for the temporary suspension of a by-law, believing that such suspension may be made by unanimous consent; but such a proceeding is in violation of Masonic law. If a Lodge cannot repeal any one of its laws without the consent of the Grand Lodge, it is an evident consequence that it cannot suspend it; for this is, for all practical purposes, a repeal for a definite, although temporary, period. It is the duty, therefore, of the presiding officer to rule any proposition for a suspension of a by-law to be out of order, and therefore not admissible.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

OF NOMINATIONS TO OFFICE.

The subject of nominations to office is germane to a treatise on the Parliamentary Law of Masonry, because the propriety and legality of such nominations has been made a question in some quarters, and there-