

not to be put to a nurse that cares not for it." But where the proposition with which a Committee is charged consists of several parts, it is no objection to the appointment of a member that he is opposed to some of these parts, so long as he is favorable to the general proposition. His partial opposition might lead him in the Committee to propose such alterations and amendments as would give the entire subject a more acceptable shape in the Lodge when it was reported by the Committee, than it had in its original form.

By courtesy the first-named person is considered as the chairman of the Committee, and he is recognized as such, at least so far as to call the Committee to order at its first meeting. But every Committee has the right to select its own chairman, and may, at its first meeting, displace the one named by the presiding officer and elect another in his stead. This has sometimes been done, but the more general usage is to accept the first-named member as the chairman.

In strict parliamentary law, to give legality to the acts of a Committee, it has been considered necessary that every member should be present at its deliberations, unless at the time of its appointment or by some general rule of the body which has appointed it, the number required to constitute a quorum shall have been expressed. But this rule no longer exists in this country, and it is generally recognized as good parliamentary law that a majority of the members of a Committee will constitute a legal quorum to do business.

Unless the time and place for the meeting of a Committee have been specially expressed by the body appointing it, these matters are left to the discretion of the Committee, who, without such instructions, may meet at such time and place as to the majority shall seem most expedient and convenient. But a quorum of the Committee must meet formally to transact any business; the opinions of the members cannot be taken by the chairman separately, from which opinions he is to make up his report. Everything agreed upon must have been submitted in Committee, and an opportunity given for free discussion.

Business is transacted in a Committee with less formality than in the deliberative body from which it emanates. The members are permitted to speak as often as they please, and are not required to stand when addressing the Chair. But all the rules which govern motions and questions in deliberative bodies are equally applicable to Committees.

A Committee is restricted to the consideration and investigation of the proposition with which it is charged. It cannot go beyond it, nor take up other matters irrelevant to and unconnected with it. Appointed with a definite object, it must confine itself to that object.

A Committee may adjourn from time to time, until a majority of its members shall have come to an agreement on the matter which had been referred to it. This agreement it announces to the body which had appointed it in a document drawn up by the chairman, or some other member of the Committee appointed for that purpose. This document is called its Report, which will constitute the subject matter of the succeeding Chapter.

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