

as municipal boroughs and sanitary districts, they have, with slight exceptions, the administrative powers and duties of county councils, and are, to all intents and purposes, outside their counties for administrative and financial purposes, though, if they are not Assize towns, they will have to contribute to the cost of the county Assizes, and, if they have no Quarter Sessions of their own (p. 373), to the cost of the county Quarter Sessions. But the gift of these powers and duties does not cause any change in the government of the borough, nor does it make it a county of itself (p. 374); though, for obvious convenience, in selecting their first list of county boroughs, the framers of the Local Government Act did not overlook the claims of counties of cities and towns. The chief test, however, is population; and 50,000 is the minimum limit. But there is quite a large number of boroughs with greater population which are not county boroughs.

Finally, before leaving the subject of local government in England, it must be remembered that, being English, it is subject to anomalies and exceptions, which do not fit in with the scheme sketched in this and the preceding chapter. Still, if we make one important reservation, the divergences from plan are less serious in this than in most English institutions. The great exception, however, of the City and County of London is so anomalous, as to necessitate a word of mention; even if, being an unlikely model for imitation, we do not give it the attention it deserves.

LONDON

There are really many 'Londons'; but the only two which are concerned with local self-government are, as has been suggested, the City of London and the County of London. It is difficult to say whether the