

men, for a period of six years; one-half of them retiring every three years. They are members of the council, and require the same qualifications as ordinary councillors, but they do not sit for any particular 'ward,' or electoral division of the borough, though, in some boroughs, it is customary to allot each alderman to a particular ward. Their only special duty appears to be that of acting as 'returning officers' (p. 146) at ward elections; but they take precedence over ordinary councillors, and are sometimes distinguished by a special costume. Like almost all other municipal office-holders, they are re-eligible; but they cannot, as the Mayor can, be compelled to serve.

THE COUNCILLORS

The borough council is a body consisting of such multiple of three members as may be fixed by the borough charter or Order in Council, elected for three years by the burgesses, from their own ranks,¹ or from persons who have resided for twelve months in the borough, but retiring annually by thirds, so that there is an election each year. They are elected by the 'wards' into which the borough is divided for election purposes; three (or a multiple of three) for each. But no person in Holy Orders, nor the regular minister of a dissenting congregation, nor any person directly or indirectly interested in any contract with the council, nor any bankrupt, nor person recently found guilty of corrupt practices at an election (p. 150), can be elected or sit; even though some of these may act as burgesses. There is no disqualification of sex or marriage; but a councillor must have attained the full legal age of twenty-one. Municipal and all other local government elections are conducted under the provisions of

¹ At least this will be so when the new Representation of the People Bill becomes law. At present a councillor need not have quite all the qualifications of a burgess.