

SCHOOL BOARDS

The only unit of local government between the county and the parish in Scotland appears to be the school district, formed under the provisions of the Scottish Education Act of 1872; and this is hardly an exception, for, under that Act, the school district is either a parish or a borough. But the district is still a distinct part of the scheme of local government in Scotland; for each school district elects its own school board for educational purposes, as a distinct body from the burgh or parish council, and the electors are not necessarily the same in both cases.

PARISH COUNCILS

By the provisions of a recent statute, the Parish Councils Act of 1894, parish councils are also instituted in all Scottish parishes, 'landward' (rural) and 'burghal' (urban), to take over the duties of the old parochial boards, which were formed in the middle of the nineteenth century to replace, in the matter of poor-relief, the somewhat limited activities of the kirk sessions (p. 326). The subject of poor-relief is, however, much less onerous in Scotland than in England, owing to the fact that it is, so far as the State is concerned, confined to the impotent poor, and takes largely the form of 'out-door relief' (pp. 341-342). The difference in the policies adopted by the two countries in this important matter at the Reformation is striking, and has persisted ever since.

BURGHS

In theory there are four, in substance two, classes of urban municipalities in Scotland, viz. (i) royal and parliamentary burghs and (ii) police burghs. The former are governed by elected provosts and 'bailies,' or councillors, having extensive powers, which include