

THE METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD

The metropolitan borough councils send representatives also, as do the Common Council, the London County Council, and the councils of certain areas adjacent to London, to the Metropolitan Water Board, an independent body created in 1902 to take over the water supply of 'Outer London' from the various private companies then engaged in providing it. This body assesses and collects, within statutory limits, its own rates.

SCOTLAND : COUNTY COUNCILS

In spite of the great differences which at one time existed between England and the other countries of the United Kingdom, the schemes of local government in Scotland and Ireland have recently shown a marked tendency to approximate to the English. In the former country, county councils, thirty-three in number, much on the lines which have been described (p. 359),¹ were introduced to take over the powers of the older Commissioners of Supply or county committees of landowners, and the various bodies of Road Trustees. In the matter of police, which has been a regular county force since 1857, the Commissioners of Supply are still associated with the county councils in joint committees, which have also important powers in the matter of finance ; while, as has been remarked (p. 298), the granting and renewal of liquor licences is still in the hands of the Justices of the Peace. But the Scottish county councils have large powers in the matters of contagious diseases of animals, public health, weights and measures, and lunatic asylums.

¹ An interesting variation is, that the representatives of the smaller burghs which are included in the county administration are not elected directly to the county council, but by and from the burgh councils.