

councils, with mayor, aldermen, and councillors, though rather on the model of county than of ordinary borough government. Thus, for example, the councillors retire all together every three years, instead of by thirds (p. 367); and the disqualification of Holy Orders does not apply to the metropolitan borough councils.

THEIR DUTIES

The metropolitan boroughs are sanitary districts, with most of the powers of ordinary urban councils (pp. 337-351); though their duties in this respect are shared in a rather special way by the London County Council. They had also 'distress committees' under the Unemployed Workmen Act of 1905 (p. 351); while the County Council sent members to the 'central body' for London established under that Act. The metropolitan borough councils also assess and levy rates, much as ordinary urban councils (p. 352). But they are not education authorities under the Education Act of 1902; for, by the London Education Act of 1903, the duties of the old London School Board were, as has been said (p. 377), transferred to the London County Council.

LONDON POOR RELIEF: THE METROPOLITAN ASYLUMS BOARD

The heavy duties connected with the relief of the poor in the metropolitan area are confided to Guardians elected by the rate-payers of the various metropolitan Unions in the same way, and having the same powers, as other Guardians (pp. 340-342); with the exception that, instead of maintaining their own or county asylums, they send representatives to a central Metropolitan Asylums Board, which contains also nominees of the Local Government Board, and which undertakes, besides the provision and maintenance of asylums, the provision of some hospitals for special classes of diseases.