

THE ALCOHOL PROBLEM

CHAPTER I

THE PROBLEM STATED

INTEREST in the regulation and control of the sale of alcoholic liquors has greatly increased of recent years, not only amongst social reformers, but in all classes of society. This is due partly to the culmination of the prohibition movement in the United States of America by the legal enforcement of complete prohibition, and to the adoption of various degrees of prohibition in our colonies and in other countries; but probably the war-time restrictions on the sale of alcohol, and the striking social effects produced by them, are even more responsible for the change of outlook. Many people who previously had scarcely given the matter a thought have come to realise, not only that excessive indulgence in alcohol causes many and widespread evils, but that these evils can be largely reduced by legal enactments falling far short of complete prohibition. Also it has proved a matter of interest, tinged with somewhat malicious amusement, to read of the difficulties met with in the attempted enforcement of the Prohibition Act in the United States.

It is probable that at the present time the majority of men in this country would admit that the conditions