

consumption of alcoholic liquors. The evidence I am adducing is divisible into two parts, the first of which deals with the effects of legislation in this and other countries. For the due understanding of such effects, and the lines on which legislation ought to move in the future, it is necessary to consider in addition the experimental evidence at our disposal concerning the action of alcohol on the human organism. This I have dealt with in the latter part of the book.

In considering the future of the alcohol problem we must pay special attention to the views of the average man rather than to those of extremists. There is no exact knowledge of the number of abstainers in the country, but among adult men the proportion is probably not more than 1 in 10, whilst temperance reformers are less numerous still. At the opposite extreme of opinion we find a relatively small number of men connected directly or indirectly with the "trade," who in their own way are even more emphatic than the temperance reformers, for apart from all abstract considerations their livelihood is in danger. The great majority of men fall into neither of these extreme classes, though all of them possess opinions, some of which are vague, and others very definite. The most definite opinion of all is that on no account will they endure complete deprivation of alcoholic liquors. They have acquired the habit of drinking them in youth or early manhood, and they maintain that this habit gives them a good deal of pleasure and does them no harm. As Sir James Crichton-Browne puts it,\* "What the great majority of people drink

\* J. Crichton-Browne, "True Temperance Monographs," 1921, p. 43.