

future? Will it continue to rise from year to year, until the scandal becomes so great that drastic measures are taken to reduce it, either by the more strict enforcement of the law or by its amendment? Or again, will the administration of the law gradually become more and more effective, and the upward trend of the curve thereby be replaced by a downward one?

A satisfactory feature of the convictions is found in the summary of the situation made by Judge Rosman, of Portland, Oregon, who states that barely 3 to 5 per cent. of the men brought before him for drunkenness are under thirty years of age, whilst the remainder had acquired their thirst for alcoholic liquors long before the introduction of the law. He said "it is so rare for a young man to be arrested on a drunk charge that it always evokes attention."\*

The rival estimates of the effects of prohibition on deaths from alcoholism are ridiculously contradictory. The Anti-Saloon League and the Federal Prohibition authorities state that the deaths have sunk to a fifth their previous number, whilst the Anti-Prohibition Association consider that they have increased over threefold. This latter estimate is manifestly absurd, and it serves to indicate how little reliance can be placed on any of the figures of the Anti-Prohibition Association. Reliable statistics have been compiled by the health authorities of nineteen cities, all with a population of over 300,000, and they show that in 1922 the deaths from alcoholism were slightly more numerous than in 1920 or 1921, but were 57 per cent. less numerous than in 1916 or 1917. A valuable

\* Quoted from L. T. Beman, "Prohibition." New York, 1925, p. 280.