

hopes to see this country imitate the example of New Zealand, which at successive triennial local option polls succeeded in obtaining a *no-licence* majority in rapidly increasing numbers of the electoral areas, till at the last poll it was voted for in 67 out of the 76 areas. This movement, if it advanced still further, might be expected to lead to total prohibition; but is this likely to be the case in New Zealand? Since the last local option poll was taken in 1911, the movement in favour of total prohibition has shown no signs of progressing. The vote for prohibition in 1914 was much less favourable than in 1911; and again, that taken in 1922, under changed conditions of voting, was less favourable than that of 1919, though the 1925 vote showed a slight recovery. It looks as if the local option system was successful chiefly because the element of compulsion was lacking. Such people as desire drink can still legally obtain all that they want by private importation, and those who have not the desire, or the means, go without. Owing to the closure of all public houses, temptation is removed from their doors, and in consequence the consumption of alcohol fell to about a tenth that observed in "licence" areas. No smuggling or illicit distillation developed, because there was no need for it. It seems not unlikely that even the small consumption of alcohol now observed in "no-licence" areas will gradually die down, as the old generation passes away and the new generation, which has never acquired the taste for alcoholic liquor, grows up.

How near are we in this country to this desirable condition of affairs? We have seen that the three local option polls in Scotland have met with com-