

paratively small success, and show no signs of progress. Even if an increasing number of "no-licence" areas were carried, they are so small in size that anyone can easily walk to a "continuance" area, so the temptation of the public house is removed only to a limited extent. As previously mentioned, the whole of New Zealand is divided into 76 electoral areas, whilst Scotland, which is less than a third of its size, is divided into 1,215 areas; but if these small areas in Scotland were made considerably larger, it is improbable that any of them would carry a *no-licence* vote, though they might carry *limitation*. We have no exact information to guide us about England, but it is probable that local option polls would give no more favourable results than in Scotland, though they might do so in Wales. Hence the advance through local option is bound to be very gradual, unless the system of voting is modified in the direction suggested in Chapter V., and additional options such as local control and disinterested management are permitted.

The retrogression of the total prohibition movement in New Zealand is exceeded by the retrogression in most of the other countries which have tried it. Absolute compulsion inevitably stirs up a fierce determination in the minds of many men to defeat the law at all costs; but if the prohibition is relative and not absolute, it is accepted with comparative resignation. Many countries have recognised this principle, and have instituted systems whereby the sale of spirits and other highly alcoholic liquors is restricted by making them a Government monopoly and subject to special permits, or in other ways. No doubt these methods might be greatly improved in the majority of cases, but