

in 45 per cent. of the cases occurring in men, to spirits alone in 42 per cent., and to beer and spirits together in 11 per cent.; whilst among women the proportions were: beer alone, 38 per cent., spirits alone, 49 per cent., and beer and spirits together, 9 per cent. These figures relate only to England, and if corresponding figures had been obtained for Scotland they would have relegated a far larger proportion of the drunkenness to spirit-drinking, for the Scotchman drinks about twice as much spirits per head as the Englishman, but only a third as much beer. Hence a combination of Scotch and English statistics would probably ascribe a distinctly larger influence to spirits than to beer in the causation of drunkenness.

As the available data are insufficient to warrant anything more than a rough generalisation, I have assumed that beer and spirits are of equal weight in the causation of drunkenness, whilst wine may for practical purposes be disregarded altogether, as the alcoholic content of the wine consumed is only about a fifth that of the spirits, and being in a more dilute form it is less harmful. In the accompanying Table* I have recorded the consumption of beer and spirits each year from 1912 to 1925, relative to the average of 1912 and 1913 taken as 100, and also the mean of each pair of percentages. It will be seen that the mean value reached a minimum in 1918, when it was 42 per cent. on the 1912-13 standard. After the war it rose to 72 per cent.

* Calculated from data taken from the "Alliance Year Book," 1927, with a correction (founded on figures recorded by G. B. Wilson, *Brit. Journ. Inebriety*, 1924, p. 9), for the 1923 to 1925 data of alcohol consumption, as they relate only to Great Britain and not the United Kingdom, as do the 1912 to 1922 data.