

there can be no doubt that the two which are most important, in their application to future policy, are those relating to hours of sale and to high taxation. The lesson relating to the issue of more diluted alcoholic liquors is also of great importance, but the data available are not sufficient to enable us to estimate what share of the sum-total of effects produced was due to this particular side of the Board's policy.

We saw in the last chapter that several of our colonies have fully grasped the importance of regulating the hours of sale, and have taken much more drastic action than anything contemplated by ourselves. As a result of referenda, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia have all adopted 6 o'clock closing; so has Tasmania, though in an unsatisfactory form. We ourselves have to some extent reverted from our war-time regulations, and one of the changes is particularly to be deprecated. In many districts the hour of opening is now 10.30 a.m., and occasionally as early as 9 a.m., instead of the midday hour fixed by the Control Board. Such alterations inevitably mean that a number of people start drinking an hour or more before their dinner, and three hours after their breakfast, or at a time when their stomachs contain no food. It is much to be hoped that the hour will be put back again, if not to noon then to 11.30, as was provisionally fixed in the Act of 1921. This hour is still in force in the Carlisle area, thanks to Government control. It would be a matter of great interest to ascertain roughly the proportion of persons who frequent the public houses before midday, in relation to those who use them later on, and the *classes* of persons who frequent them. How many of them have any real need for