

social instincts of the people are exploited in the interests of drink sellers. Public houses, generally speaking, are in size and structure most unsatisfactory, and consequently are often unpleasantly congested. Only in a small proportion of houses is there any attempt to provide decent amenities."

IMPROVED PUBLIC HOUSES.

The criticism made by Selley that the majority of public houses are simply drink shops, which are generally unsatisfactory both in size, structure, and the provision of decent amenities, is borne out by plenty of other evidence. For instance, we read* that the chairman of the Bristol Bench of licensing justices complained that his colleagues "had come to the conclusion, after the visits they had made, that the owners of properties might improve—considerably improve—the licensed houses, especially in the poorer districts. In these houses men and women spent hours of the day and evening in what he considered very unhealthy surroundings. Some were not kept as clean as they could be, and they were certainly not attended to as they should be. They had been very dissatisfied with what they had seen and with the conditions prevailing." The writer of this "True Temperance Note" agrees that this reproach "should be wiped away with the greatest celerity and completeness; for regarded merely from a business standpoint, nothing is fraught with greater danger to the public house industry than the existence of dirty, unhealthy, and incommodious houses."

* "True Temp. Notes," True Temp. Assn., April, 1927.