

nine-tenths of the total spirits consumed are sold in this way, and only a tenth is drunk in restaurants and public houses. The spirits were sold in unlimited quantity to anyone who wanted to buy, to the hopeless drunkard, to the wife-beater, and to the young, gullible peasant lad on his occasional visit to town.* In 1913 Dr. Ivan Bratt succeeded in forming a company, which he named the "Stockholm System," for the sale of spirits in Stockholm under strict regulations. Only specified customers were supplied, who gave definite particulars about their name, age, occupation, and so on, and if enquiry from proper authorities showed that they were suitable persons, they were given a "mot-book," for the registration of purchases, which entitled them to purchase a definite amount of spirits. The maximum allowed is 4 litres of spirits a month (the equivalent of about five bottles of whisky), but only a third of the mot-book holders have a right to this maximum. Wines can only be purchased by showing the mot-book, but beer is not controlled, except in so far that by law no beer can now be sold in Sweden containing more than 3·2 per cent. of alcohol (by weight).

Restrictions do not appear to apply to the on-sales of spirits at restaurants and public houses, but if a man obtained the reputation for excessive drinking, presumably his mot-book would be withdrawn or appropriately amended. The system has been extended to the whole of Sweden, and over a million mot-books have been issued. Since the introduction of the system the sale of spirits has rapidly dwindled, being 43 million litres in 1913, 31·6 million litres in 1921,

* *The Times*, May 29, 1923.