

liquors amounted to less than 6 per cent. of the total drink bill for England and Wales, and whilst in many clubs, such as golf and athletic clubs, Masonic clubs, and "works" clubs (used mostly for lunches and dinners), the expenditure per member is small, it is considerable in the clubs which are regularly open in the evenings. The Association of Conservative Clubs, with a total membership of 908,118, spent £7 10s. 6d. per member per annum in 1925, whilst the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, which has a much larger membership, spent £11 3s. per Metropolitan member and £7 6s. per Provincial member.

Club life, in so far as it relates to the working man, has been subjected to an extensive investigation by Selley.\* He came to the conclusion that the great bulk of the clubs are formed for definite social reasons, in connection with various forms of group activity such as politics, sport, trade unions, and crafts. Many of the clubs are spacious, well managed, and comfortable. There are clubs in mining districts with bathrooms for the use of members, a luxury which they are denied at the pit-head or in their squalid homes. In addition to all kinds of indoor recreations and hobbies such as billiards, concerts, dances, first-aid classes and tutorial classes, some of the club grounds possess tennis courts, bowling greens, and racquet courts. Clubs are governed by democratically elected committees, who carefully scrutinise the applications for membership. The great majority of the members are decent, law-abiding persons who regard the club as a social centre rather than as a private public house. Indeed, many of them are total abstainers. They prefer their club to

\* E. Selley, "The English Public House as it is," 1927, pp. 143-174.