

the public house, as there is no floating population of strangers who can come in and misbehave themselves. They can always be sure of meeting friends who will join them in a chat, a game, or a drink, and if drinking is not desired, there is no sense of compulsion. Drinking to excess is strongly resented, and the committee would censure the steward and the member if the matter came to their notice.

On the other hand, some of the clubs are little more than drink shops. In some instances they occupy licensed premises which had been closed on the ground of redundancy and upon which compensation had been paid. The chairman of the Bradford Licensing Magistrates said: * "In eight cases of clubs recently formed they were established in premises recently deprived of licences which were considered very undesirable." Again, the chairman of the Birmingham Justices said † that "on December 12 last the Committee paid £4,590 by way of compensation for the closing of the Vine, Alma Street, Aston. On January 1 the place was opened as a club within three weeks of the time it was closed as a public house. We regard this as a scandal." As has been well stated, ‡ "Our present method of automatic registration of clubs, with its exceptional privileges, including the absence of supervision and control, is inconsistent with our established licensing arrangements as they apply to public houses, beer houses and other licensed premises. The two sets of law clash and conflict. . . . The club law now obstructs and largely negatives the

* *The Times*, February 12, 1925.

† *Birmingham Post*, January 23, 1926.

‡ "Monthly Notes of Temp. Legis. Lg.," 1927, p. 18.