

drillers, and platers) showed 31 per cent. of lost time on Mondays, they showed 22 per cent. on the other weekdays. The time-rate workers (shipwrights, fitters, joiners, labourers) kept better time than the other group, but they showed 15 per cent. of lost time on Mondays and 12 per cent. on other days. There is no numerical evidence to prove that this Monday absenteeism was due to excessive indulgence in alcohol, but it is well known that drunkenness in Newcastle is considerable. In 1919,* for instance, the convictions for drunkenness, per 10,000 of the population, were higher than in any towns except Liverpool and London (City), and were twenty times greater than in some industrial towns (*e.g.*, Norwich, Northampton).

In many industries it is probable that time-keeping is very little influenced by indulgence in alcohol. Agricultural labourers, for instance, are paid so low a wage that they cannot afford much indulgence, whatever their desires. In industries which depend mostly on women and girls the time-keeping is usually excellent throughout the week. For instance, it was found† that 809 women employed in a tin canister factory, when tested over a two-year period, lost only 1.5 per cent. of their time from sickness, whilst the time lost from other causes was less than 0.5 per cent. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the average annual expenditure on alcoholic liquors per family is about 13s. a week, and as the chief wage-earner gets the major portion of this sum, it follows that he must drink, on an average, two or three pints of beer a day. Such

* "Alliance Year Book," 1921.

† H. M. Vernon and T. Bedford, Report No. 35 of Indust. Fatigue Research Board, 1926.