

houses were open for 16 to 19½ hours a day, they were allowed only 5½ hours by the Board—namely, 2½ hours at midday (12 to 2.30 p.m.), and 3 hours in the evening (6 to 9 p.m. or 6.30 to 9.30 p.m.). This arrangement made it very difficult for a man to take his liquor on an empty stomach, as in the ordinary course he could not get a drink an hour or two before either his midday meal or his evening meal. Also the closure of the public houses for 3½ or 4 hours in the afternoons prevented soaking, and gave time for the man who had drunk alcoholic liquor between 12 and 2.30 p.m. to get the alcohol out of his system before he began his evening drinking. This regulation of the hours of sale has largely persisted to the present time, as the hours still total only 8 or 9 a day, and there is still an interval of several hours in the afternoon when the public houses are closed. Unfortunately the midday hour of opening has been changed, usually to 10.30 a.m., or to a time when the stomach is nearly empty of food. It is to be hoped that the hour of 11.30 a.m., which is in force at Carlisle, will be reverted to. This should not occasion any genuine outcry, for how many men—or women—have a legitimate right to drink in the middle of the morning?

By far the most important method of all for controlling the consumption of alcoholic liquors is by means of *taxation*. The average man spends a certain fraction of his wages, probably about a fifth, on alcoholic liquor, and if the price be raised substantially, he has to resign himself to a smaller consumption. He does not acquiesce at all willingly, and in fact he does to some extent compensate for the increase of price by expending a larger fraction of his earnings.