

average time during which the patients had been addicted to alcoholic excess was a little over eight years. Nearly 35 per cent. of the total 606 cases had had delirium tremens once or oftener; in one case there had been no fewer than thirteen attacks. About 90 per cent. of the cases were spirit drinkers (of these 9 per cent. drank wine, and 15 per cent. beer in addition); less than 6 per cent. drank wine alone, and less than 2 per cent. beer alone. Only about 20 per cent. had previously been in a retreat or under private care. The alleged exciting cause in over half the cases was "sociability;" the other assigned causes included nervous shock, as from domestic trouble, business worry, or financial loss; some special occupation influence—the most considerable being that of a wine and spirit merchant,—ill-health, injury, and both overwork and "no occupation." The results, as revealed by the after history of the cases, were that about 33 per cent. were doing well, about 7 per cent. were merely improved, about 30 per cent. were unimproved, 1 per cent. had become insane, 7 per cent. were dead, and 17 per cent. had not been heard from. The experience in regard to the applications for admission to the Dalrymple Home during the past year reveals the fact that the knowledge is becoming generalised among the community that an Inebriates Act exists, and that those who take advantage of it are not necessarily criminal. This good result is felt to be largely due to the energy of Dr. Branthwaite, H.M. Inspector of Retreats. Two of the great present needs are for more extended periods of treatment, and the compulsory treatment of those who cannot recognise themselves as habitually inebriate.

#### THE GOTHENBURG SYSTEM IN FIFE.

This system has been adopted with considerable success at Kelty and Hill of Beath villages, and in May last an effort was made to establish a public-house on that principle in Dunfermline. Mr. Ross, the originator of the scheme for the district, who presided at the meeting convened for the purpose, said that the houses at Hill of Beath and Kelty were being most uncharitably scrutinised, and that statements were being made against them which had positively no foundation in fact. These houses, instead of fostering drunkenness, were doing a great deal to diminish it and to promote temperance. One house had been acquired in Dunfermline for an experiment. He was more and more mystified by the opposition to the movement. The licensed victuallers had good cause to be alarmed, and were alarmed, but why the teetotalers should be alarmed passed his understanding. If they were so confident of the good sense of the people, why not allow the scheme to be laid fairly before them, and have the traffic managed by them? £3600 was the price to be paid for St. Margaret's Hotel, and a considerable number of shares were applied for.

In June the magistrates of Dunfermline met for the purpose of considering an application by the Secretary of the Dunfermline Public-house Society, Limited, for a transfer of the licence for St. Margaret's Hotel. A petition against the granting of the licence was submitted, stating that the Gothenburg experiment is calculated to retard temperance reform and to make public-houses respectable, and thus increase the demoralisation of the people. The magistrates, having considered their decision, intimated that the application was refused by a majority of three to two. One of the grounds on which the majority voted was that the Society should have acquired a public-house and not a well-conducted hotel.

The Committee of the Society thereafter provisionally purchased the Old Inn, with the view to conducting the business on the lines of the Hill of Beath and Kelty societies, the profits being applied to purposes of public utility. It is to be hoped that the Dunfermline magistrates will give the scheme a fair trial.

#### THE INEBRIATES ACT IN SCOTLAND.

As we go to press it is recorded that the first Scottish case has been dealt with. Before the Orkney Sheriff Court a pedlar pleaded guilty to being an habitual drunkard after fifty-eight previous convictions for petty offences. The sentence was that the accused be detained for three years in the State Reformatory at Perth.