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INFLUENCE OF INTEMPERANCE UPON CRIME.

The extent to which drink is a cause of crime is a subject that has received much attention. There still exists in reference to it a good deal of uncertainty. A great proportion of the business of courts is with offences that are manifestly the outcome of drinking. Apart from such offences as drunkenness and violations of liquor laws, there are very many other cases directly attributable to the liquor traffic. It is difficult, however, to obtain data sufficient for even a safe estimate as to the extent of such drink-caused crime.

The conditions and circumstances in different localities vary. A statement based upon knowledge that three-fourths of the crime in any particular place was caused by drink would not make it certain that exactly the same proportion existed in another locality. There would be variations. Roughly speaking, however, it might be assumed that the results of a thorough investigation of the conditions of an average community might be taken as a basis for calculations generally. That is, if we could accurately say how much crime in any place was the result of intemperance we would not be very far astray in using the ratio thus obtained in forming an estimate of liquor-caused crime generally.

In nearly every locality there may be obtained figures showing the extent of the crime with which the authorities are called to deal. There is a record of a remarkable inquiry conducted with the utmost care and thoroughness