

And last, but not least, under this part of the act, where a licensed person is charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises, and it is proved that a person was drunk on the licensed premises, the licensee must prove that he and the persons employed by him took all reasonable steps for preventing drunkenness on the premises.

*Added Difficulties.*—The act also contains some drastic amendments of licensing law which all licensed persons will do well to study.

Among the more important points to be noticed are :

A justice's license will now be required in the case of every excise license for sale of intoxicating liquor to be consumed off the premises. To this section there are certain exceptions.

Licenses are no longer to be indorsed for the purpose of recording convictions, but notice of the conviction is to be entered in a register, and on every application for grant, renewal or transfer regard is to be had for such entries, whether relating to the person or the premises.

The general annual licensing meetings are to be held during the first fortnight in February, instead of in the autumn, as hitherto.

Licensing justices asked to grant an "in" license may require a plan of the premises to be produced, and may order such alterations as they think reasonably necessary to secure the proper conduct of the business to be made in that part of the premises where intoxicating liquor is sold.

An occasional license will require the consent of a petty sessional court, and twenty-four hours' previous notice to the superintendent of police for the district.

*The Check on Clubs.*—So far as clubs are concerned, the act inaugurates an entirely novel mode of treatment.

First and foremost comes the matter of registration. Henceforward every club which occupies a house or part of a house or other premises which are habitually used for the purpose of a club, and in which any intoxicating liquor is supplied to members or their guests, must be registered.

The secretary of every such club must henceforth yearly furnish to the clerk of the justices a return, containing particulars as to the name and objects of the club, the hours of opening and closing, and the rules of the club.

A club may be struck off the register on the ground that the "number of members is less than twenty-five, or that it is not conducted in good faith as a club, or that there is frequent drunkenness on the club premises, or that illegal sales of intoxicating liquor have taken place on the club premises."