

town councils to borrow for this purpose, on the security of the rates, and to carry all profit, after providing for interest and sinking fund, to the credit of the education rate and the poor rate in equal proportions. In the words of the committee :—

“The advantages expected from the two foregoing schemes are nearly identical.”

“The control of the local authority over the issue of licences.”

“A great diminution in the number of public-houses and an improvement in their convenience, healthiness and management.”

“By the provisions that no individual should derive any profit from the sale of intoxicating drinks, and that the managers should keep a supply of tea, coffee and other refreshments, it is hoped that the present drinking-houses might gradually assume the character of eating-houses, and workmen's club-places of harmless resort.

“That sound seasoned spirits and light wholesome beer, would be substituted for the deleterious spirits, and heavy unwholesome beer strongly charged with alcohol, such as are now often supplied.”

As the net results of the change, a diminution in intemperance, a reduction in crime and disorder and a considerable balance of profit to be devoted to the relief of local rates.

Objections urged against both schemes by extreme advocates of temperance are :—

“That town councils should not conduct a traffic demoralising and wrong in itself.”

“That the temptation of profit might induce the town council to multiply the number and attractions of the drinking places.”

“That the preliminary expense attendant upon the acquisition of such a property would be enormous.”

“And that Town Councils are unfit to conduct so vast a business with economy and care.”

I cannot do better than to give the words of the Committee upon these points :—

“We do not wish to undervalue the force of these objections ; but if the risks are considerable, so are the expected