

gunpowder." The publication of the report was immediately followed by the establishment of the Aborigines Protection Society, which has ever since devoted itself to a propaganda against the "subtle instrument"; and not without good results, although after sixty years of united effort, we are confronted by the fact that the currency of a considerable area of British territory in equatorial Africa is avowedly gin.

From the recent report of a Committee of Inquiry, it appears that in Southern Nigeria practically the whole of the taxation is raised by means of Customs duties. In 1906 the import of spirits represented 24.2 per cent. of the total inward trade. In the same year, the total revenue of Southern Nigeria amounted to £1,088,717, and the revenue derived from spirits to £608,784, more than one half of the whole. The report of the Committee has established the degeneration of festival plays and funeral processions into drunken orgies; the custom of pawning children for gin; the use of gin as currency not only in trade but officially in payment of fines imposed by Courts of Justice. And yet it is to Africa that the energies of the Society have been particularly devoted, because, as they justly urge, "the expansion of European control in Africa, for good or for evil, with honour and gain, or with loss and discredit, have in recent years been very much greater and more notable than in any other part of the world." I will, however, confine myself to the question of the use of alcoholic drinks in Crown colonies within the range of my own experience,—