

the hops on top remain cold and wet. This is obviated to some extent by turning and stirring with a fork; but it is not possible for the hops to be evenly dried, as some which laid next the floor are sure to fall back to the bottom again, and thus become very much over-dried.

4. The air-drying method, invented by the writer. By this method hops are dried by a free and continuous passage of air through the hops. No heat is used, and the air is at the normal outside temperature. The circulation and draught are created by a large fan, run by an electric motor. The drying is accomplished by continuously renewed contact of fresh air with the hops. The moisture is absorbed, the brewing qualities left intact.

If you wish to dry any article, expose to the air; don't heat it. If the methods employed in the ordinary hop kiln are correct, the washerwoman should put her clothes in the oven to dry, and not hang them on the line.

To summarise, the following are the advantages of my method:—The process of drying begins immediately after the hops are picked, and there is no loss or damage from the sweating process. The drying is accomplished evenly, and without heat, and no hops can be high-dried, neither will they be slack-dried. The hops are not handled in the process, and no buds are broken. The resins are left in their natural state—that is, soft and pliable. The aroma is uninjured. The hops will present a uniform, clean appearance, rendering bleaching with sulphur unnecessary. Being perfectly dried, the hops will keep better in the bale, as there will be no disturbing chemical changes.—E. Clements Horst, in *The Australian Brewers' Journal*.

**HOME NOTES.**

"L.V. Gazette," September 8).

Many questions of importance to the trade will be discussed at the half-yearly meeting of the General Council of the Licensed Victuallers' National Defence League, which will be opened at the Angel Hotel, Peterborough, on Wednesday, October 11, and continued on the following day. A special meeting of the Parliamentary Committee will precede the council meetings. The first question on the agenda is that of beer hawking, and a resolution will be proposed for its suppression. Another subject will be the sale of beer and stout by weight, and the inquiries which have been made by

the secretary and manager—Mr. H. Geo. Robinson—in reference to this proposed change will be embodied in a report to the council.

But perhaps the most important question of all in view of the coming general election is the direct representation of the Trade in Parliament. This has been dropped for the time being by the Central Board, but is likely to be tackled with some amount of vigour by the Defence League. The council propose to formulate a scheme for the acceptance of the affiliated associations. Two points stand out prominently in connection with this matter. The first is to nominate the candidate, the next is to find a constituency in which he would have a good chance of being returned. If Alderman Morrall, who has done such good work as president of the League, would consent to stand, there is little doubt that he would have the united support of the Trade, and that a constituency in the Midlands could be found for him. The discussion on the subject by the council will be awaited with interest.

Members of the Trade know how very difficult it is to combat the charge of permitting drunkenness on licensed premises. The "drunk" may have slipped in unawares, and the license-holder may be perfectly ignorant of his presence, yet when he is seen to leave the premises "tottering to a fall" the police consider they have no alternative but to ask for a summons. Again, the "drunk" may have entered the house and been refused drink. In all such prosecutions the magistrates usually take into consideration the manner in which the house has been conducted. This was the case in connection with the prosecution of Mrs. Wilkes, the licensee of the Three Horse Shoe Inn, Darlaston, who stoutly denied that the "drunk" was served in her house. It came out in evidence that the landlady had not only owned the inn for seventeen years—during which time there had not been a single case against her—but that

the house had been in her family for fifty years, and, as counsel for the defendant said, "it was indeed something to be proud of that it had not the slightest stain upon it." And so evidently thought the magistrate, who dismissed the charge. There was no doubt, he said, that the man was drunk on the premises, but it was not proved that it was with the knowledge or consent of the license-holder.

Compare this decision with that which was given the other day by the Tividale Bench in a somewhat similar case. Two brothers were found in the Brickmaker's Arms Inn, and the landlord was summoned for permitting drunkenness. He admitted that the men were drunk, and stated that every publican only knows to be too true, "It takes one all one's time to look after them. They pull themselves together when they come in, and then afterwards they are drunk." It was admitted that the house was in a very rough neighbourhood, and that the defendant had done his best to manage the house properly. It was also pointed out that he was leaving the house, and that he was hopeful of taking another without a conviction being recorded against him. The magistrates, however, said the defendant knew his obligation, and fined him £5, including costs; yet they admitted that the man "had the reputation of having well conducted his house." In view of the increasing prosecutions for permitting drunkenness on licensed premises license-holders cannot be too careful, and as soon as a drunken man is observed he should be got off the premises with the least possible delay. The police may be called upon to eject him. At the same time one could wish that the police would hasten to warn the landlord or his servant as soon as an intoxicated person is seen to enter licensed premises. Many a prosecution would thus be obviated.

Restaurant life in Paris is known to possess many charms to those engaged in it, but it may be hoped that the extraordinary custom which is said to obtain in a certain cafe in the suburbs of the Gay City will not be introduced into restaurants on this side of the channel. Every customer, it appears, whose bill amounts to a shilling or over is entitled to receive a kiss from the very attractive young lady who acts as cashier to the establishment, and so used has she become to the osculatory routine that she goes

through it without reticence, looking upon it merely as a matter of business. It is reported that the proprietor of the restaurant is more than satisfied with the result of his curious device for attracting patrons. This may be, but a day's kissing from promiscuous customers would be more than sufficient for any English waitress or barmaid. Adventitious aids to business of this kind are certainly to be deprecated.

What is whisky? Mr. Fordham, who tried the celebrated brandy case, is, it appears, to be called upon to decide this point, and the case which is creating so much interest among the Trade—both wholesale and retail—is now finally set down for October 2 at the North London Police Court, the prosecution having been instituted by the Islington Borough Council. One may expect quite an array of counsel. The Scotch and Irish distillers will be represented, and the Central Board, it is understood, will look after the interests of the retail Trade. The "Daily Mail" claims to have done much to stir up the authorities who are charged with the administration of the Food and Drugs Act by the publication of the correspondence on "Frauds on the Label" which recently created so much interest. Indeed these letters may possibly have led to the prosecution.

The United States Government, it is said, has already decided to take action in regard to the matter by prohibiting the importation of all whiskies unless labelled describing the contents of each bottle. Blended and unblended whiskies are to be clearly notified. This action is calculated to seriously interfere with the export trade, and at a time when the distillers of the United Kingdom have been counting on the United States as one of the best markets. The British Consul at Boston, in his last report, says:—

"The increase in the use of Scotch whisky is very marked, and it is to some extent displacing wine in clubs and restaurants where formerly wine was ordered. Scotch whisky sells better and is more advertised than Irish whisky." The Board of Trade returns—which are analysed in this column every month—show how greatly the trade has improved. The value of the British and Irish spirits imported by the United States from this country last year was £400,000, as compared with £245,000 in 1900. There has been an annual increase, the quantity last year being 780,267 gallons.

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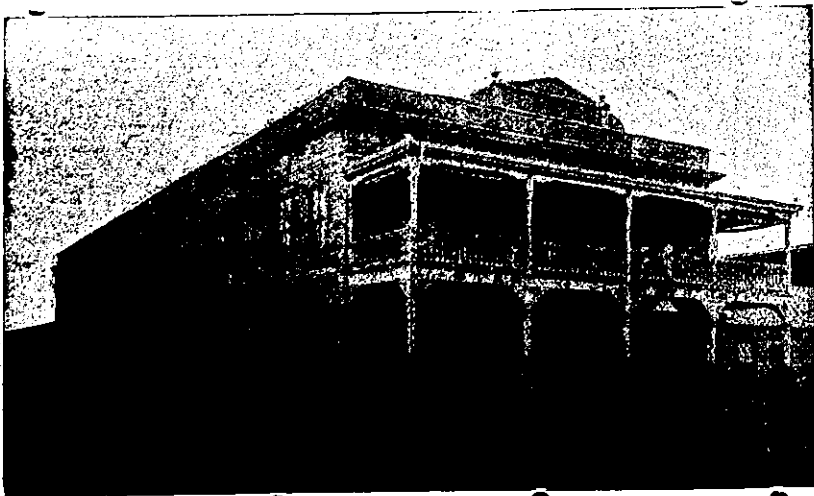
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