

The Licensing Committees of the Christchurch, Avon, Riccarton, and Lyttelton Districts accepted the assistance of the Department's Inspector, and an inspection was made in company with the police officers.

From inquiries made regarding the use of disinfectants and methods of cleansing, it was found that almost without exception liquid disinfectants were added to the water used for cleansing, and that daily cleansing of public and sleeping rooms was carried out. Inspection revealed a comparatively large number of defective and inadequate public conveniences, which were reported on to the Committees concerned. In the majority of the houses where defects existed repairs were carried out before the annual meeting of the Licensing Committee. In the others the granting of licenses was deferred by the Committee till alterations were made, which in all cases have been satisfactorily carried out.

There is, however, need for improvement in the appliances used for glass-washing. The common practice found to exist was that of emptying the leavings from the glasses into a receptacle kept for the purpose, rinsing the glass in heated or cold water held in a small tub, and standing the glasses to drain on a perforated tray, and then wiping with a towel. The water in the tubs is supposed to be changed twice or thrice a day, but the contents of some tubs indicated gross pollution to exist before the water is changed, hence a needed improvement is that all public bars supplying drinks should be required to be provided with sinks having overflows and waste-pipes for discharging purposes, and hot- and cold-water taps fixed over them, and all glasses washed in running water.

In company with the Inspector of Police I have inspected a large number of hotels in the district, and reported to the Licensing Committees of Grey and Westland all sanitary defects. In all cases the Committee ordered the work to be done to my satisfaction. The two Cobden hotels were condemned and reported by me as being unfit to hold licenses, and after inspection by the Committee it was unanimously decided to refuse the licenses until the houses had been rendered fit to my satisfaction. The result was that one was practically rebuilt, and the other was entirely rebuilt. This decision is a very important one, and will create a splendid precedent for the future regulation of sanitation in hotels.

I also reported to the Committee that overcrowding in bedrooms exists in several hotels, and the Chairman warned the trade that, although he did not see clear to take any action at present, he would seriously consider the matter at the next annual meeting. In this connection I should be glad of your advice in this matter, and whether less than 600 cubic feet of space can be allowed per person where the only means of ventilation is by opening the windows.