

DRUNKENNESS.

There has been an increase of 897 in the number of prosecutions for drunkenness during the year as compared with the previous year.

The number charged with drunkenness in 1938 was 5,446 (5,293 males and 153 females), whereas in 1937 the number was 4,549 (4,399 males and 150 females).

From the following table it will be observed that 32.02 per cent. of the males and 32.02 per cent. of the females had previous convictions recorded against them, and 3.48 per cent. of the males were not permanent residents of the Dominion.

Return showing the Number of Persons charged with Drunkenness during the Year 1938, and the Number of Previous Convictions against them, so far as is known.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Not previously convicted	3,598	101	3,702
One previous conviction	492	11	503
Two previous convictions	319	11	330
Three previous convictions	196	5	201
Four previous convictions	141	3	147
Five previous convictions	98	2	100
Over five previous convictions	446	17	463
Totals	5,293	153	5,446

Number of foregoing who were members of the crews of vessels in port, 184.

The following table shows the convictions for drunkenness per ten thousand of the population for each year from 1933 to 1937 in Australia and New Zealand:—

	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Commonwealth	67.6	68.9	76.3	83.7	78.4
New Zealand	23.3	22.3	21.6	28.8	31.6

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST HOTELKEEPERS.

The number of prosecutions against hotelkeepers during the year shows a decrease of 15 as compared with the preceding year. There were 603 prosecutions, resulting in 428 convictions during 1938, as against 618 prosecutions and 419 convictions in 1937.

SLY-GROG SELLING.

There were 106 prosecutions during the year for selling liquor without a license, resulting in 93 convictions, and there were also 45 prosecutions, resulting in 45 convictions, for other offences against the provisions of the Licensing Act in force in no-license districts.

The fines imposed on the sly-grog sellers during the year 1938 amounted to £2,639 15s.

GAMING OFFENCES.

There were 598 prosecutions, resulting in 559 convictions, during the year under the Gaming Act, against 681 prosecutions and 662 convictions in 1937.

Prosecutions of Bookmakers.

The following return shows the result of prosecutions in connection with bookmaking during the year ended 31st March, 1939:—

Offence.	Number of Prosecutions.	Number of Convictions.	Amount of Fines imposed.
Carrying on business of bookmaker	107	101	£ 2,884
Keeping common gaming-house	111	107	4,405
Found in common gaming-house	8	7	12
Laying totalizator odds	2	2	10
Publishing betting-charts	3	2	25
Street betting	5	4	200
Betting with bookmaker	4	4	9
Totals	240	230	7,545