

TEMPERANCE

In 1923 there were 18,031 highway deaths in the U.S.A. In 1924, there were 19,228; in 1925, 21,628; in—every year up until 1932 there was a steady increase; in '32 there was a temporary drop to 29,196 from 33,346 the year before. But the fatal climb began again in '33 with 31,078, and it moved up steadily to 1937, when the total reached 40,300.

Dr. Herman A. Heise, of Pennsylvania, classifies 60 per cent of the highway deaths of his commonwealth as due to alcohol; Dr. S. R. Garber of Cleveland used blood tests in 110 cases in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, and said that 58.6 per cent of both drivers and pedestrians killed in 1936 had been drinking. (His figure excluded, of course, children.)

Dr. — in the state of — (Name your doctor; name your state; you can find a story like that almost anywhere in the Union except, perhaps, in the Endless Caverns of Virginia, where there are no automobiles!

ORGANIZED! Two cute little items from a wet in Northern California intrigue us. He wails that the drys are thoroughly organized. We hope he's right. He says the drys have a million-and-a-half war chest to fight in the return of prohibition. We doubt that one; he's just frightened. A million and a half is a lot of money. We know of no organization with coin like this; temperance and prohibition groups, historically, have been financed by widow's mites—from the purses of those who have suffered.

But we really love another line in the letter: "We (the liquor industry) definitely lack the good will, respect and friendship of the public who are the voters."

Right! We heard a boy say the other day that nobody loved a girl with a shiny nose; it might be said that nobody loves a whiskey-red nose or a whiskey breath. Nobody loves the drunk; or let's say that nobody loves the man who gets him drunk. He's in the most unsavory business in the world.

SAFE? Many a drinking driver has pulled into his garage, twisted the car and heard the motor die, and drawn a deep breath of relief. Safe off the road! Safe in his own little home!

But last year 32,000 deaths and 4,700,000 injuries *at home* popped up to plague the unsteady driver getting out of his car on his own territory. If only five per cent of them were accidents and deaths involving liquor, then, in 1940, 1,625 fatal home accidents and more than 200,000 non-fatal home accidents came "out of the bottle."