

Leniency of courts was mentioned in several instances and a lenient attitude on the part of juries was also stressed, the point being made that the juries and even the court seemed to take a sympathetic attitude toward the defendant, minimizing the seriousness of his offense. Fixing also was mentioned in some replies.

There was a general realization of the seriousness of the situation and a general agreement that the matter must be handled in a more effective way. One reply indicated what is believed to be quite a familiar situation by stating that "*intoxicated pedestrians have become almost as much a worry for the State Department of Motor Vehicles as drunken drivers*."

The need of education was pointed out by several. We can all recognize the fact that the solution to the problem is not entirely a matter of laws and their enforcement, but is probably more a matter of proper informing of the people.

Assuming that statements by medical authorities are correct, few people realize for example, that a considerably smaller amount of alcohol than will cause them to be intoxicated, has a serious effect on safe and prudent driving.

## MOTOR VEHICLE SPEED STUDIES

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At the Highway Research Board meeting a year ago, Dean A N Johnson reported the results of a series of observations of motor vehicle speeds on Maryland highways<sup>1</sup>. During the past year, largely through relief project traffic surveys, many more similar studies have been made in other States and cities, notably in Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Few of the results have as yet been reported, and it is too early to attempt comparisons or generalizations.

Most of these speed surveys have been made by use of the so-called Eno speed detectors (mirror boxes) and stop watches. Others have used photography, and still others "pacing" by traveling observers. In an effort to correlate speeds with fluctuating volumes of traffic, the Bureau of Public Roads during more than a month of the past summer used an electrical time recorder on a number of heavily-traveled roads, mostly in eastern Massachusetts. During the periods of observation, 7 or 8 hours daily, a 100 percent sample of passing vehicles was recorded and timed over a distance of one-fifth of a mile. The record taken permits a study of the exact time-spacing of the vehicles as well as of their speed. The record charts are now being analyzed and it is hoped that some interesting conclusions may soon be reported.

<sup>1</sup> Proceedings, Highway Research Board, Vol 13, p 351