

ALCOHOL IN HEALTH AND DISEASE

There are few more important questions before the world to-day than the following :—I. Can alcohol be so taken as to be of value to a healthy organism ? And : II. Is alcohol of any value, and if so of what value, as a medicine ? Hundreds of able men are seeking answers to these questions, but so far have found none which have been able to make themselves accepted with anything like universality by the large body of intelligent men, in and out of the medical profession, who are waiting and listening for a decision on these points. For there is still a large and intelligent body of men, as well in Canada as in all the other countries of Christendom, who believe honestly, after life-long experience and mature thought, that alcohol, taken at proper times and in proper quantities, is capable of rendering life longer, more vigorous and more happy ; and there is another class, equally intelligent, thoughtful and honest, who believe just as firmly that, whether taken in greater or less quantity, the balance of results is always against its use ; that by so much, in proportion to the quantity of alcohol taken, be it more or less, the person taking it has his life shortened, his vigor lessened, and his happiness decreased. So again, considered as a medicine, there are many able physicians in this country, as there are all over Europe and America, who consider alcohol one of the most valuable drugs we