


SOME COMFORT FOR DRINKERS.

BY CAPTAIN ALBERT D. WOOD.

HE nature and effects of alcoholic drinks and the manner of their production have been most ably, plainly, and frequently presented to the world through the various agencies of the pulpit, the rostrum, and the press. Still, it is surprising, in these days of light and knowledge, that so very few people have availed themselves of the information so easily acquired and of so much importance to us all; surprising to find so many persons of intelligence and good general information still clinging to the long-ago-exploded idea that alcoholic intoxicants were in some way provided by the Creator, and must have been destined for our use as food, drink, or medicine. Surprising it is that such a very large proportion of those who use such liquors, moderately or otherwise, are so completely misinformed and utterly mistaken as to their qualities and effects; and it is strange that so few even of the friends and advocates of temperance have acquired correct information upon this question. The purpose of these pages is to supply, in a few words, some important facts for the million which the million will not take the time nor trouble to learn from an elaborate treatise; to tell some things which have been told before, and also to place some matters before the reader in a new light, and set him to thinking about them.

WHAT IS ALCOHOL?

Were alcohol found in vegetable or mineral nature, as are opium, strychnine, arsenic, and mercury, or were it found in nature at all, there might be some ground for supposing the Creator had designed it to serve some useful or beneficent purpose; but even in that case no valid argument would exist that any of these deadly poisons, so fatal to life and health, must have been intend-