

ALCOHOL AND INFLUENZA

To the Editor of *The Living Church*:

IT is not often I fail to find myself in agreement with your very interesting *Presbyter Ignotus*, but I am sure he is mistaken when he asserts that "all medical authorities warn against the use of alcohol for influenza." I live in a prohibition town. A few weeks ago when the epidemic was at its height we had what many would call a reign of free rum. Vendors were besieged day and night for whisky, which was recommended by most if not all of the local doctors as the great specific for influenza.

Drunkenness was much in evidence during the epidemic, as whisky was regarded as a preventive as well as a cure. Of course all places of worship were closed.

If newspaper reports are to be relied on, the same condition prevailed in a great many other towns. The *Christian Guardian* of Toronto states that one physician had been prescribing whisky so freely that in the month of December he totalled 1,244 liquor prescriptions, or an average of about forty a day, and one day he actually issued 222. Through the influence of two Methodist preachers the said doctor was prosecuted and fined \$200 and costs, and this seems to be a very light fine for such a case.

I am at one with *Presbyter Ignotus* on the temperance question and do not doubt that the death-rate among alcohol cases is vastly greater than among abstainers. While it is perfectly true that many of the most eminent medical authorities strongly condemn the use of alcohol as a remedy, the pity of it is that the rank and file of the profession do not appear to be of that mind.

W. E. ENMAN.