

PHARMACOPOEIA  
LONDINENSIS.

THE  
LONDON  
DISPENSATORY.

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PONDERA, MENSURÆ, &c.

WEIGHTS, MEASURES, &c.

**I**N this country two kinds of Weights are employed; one by which gold and silver are sold, the other by which almost all other wares. The former we call *Troy-weight*, the latter *Avoirdupois-weight*. The pounds of these are differently divided: the pound of the former has only twelve ounces, but that of the latter sixteen. Both pounds and ounces also dif-

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fer in weight: the goldsmith's pound is less than the other, the ounce greater.\*

We employ the pound of the goldsmiths; which, however, we do not divide as they do, but in this manner:

The pound	}	contains	twelve ounces.
The ounce			eight drams.
The dram			three scruples.
The scruple			twenty grains.

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\* The Avoirdupois pound contains 7000 grains, whereas the Troy pound contains only 5760; that is, less by 1240 grains.

The Troy ounce contains 480 grains, the Avoirdupois only  $437\frac{1}{2}$  grains: that is, less by  $42\frac{1}{2}$  grains; so that ten ounces Troy are almost equal to eleven Avoirdupois.

Now, as the compositions of the Dispensatory, and the extemporaneous prescriptions of physicians, are adapted to the Troy-weight, it is evident, that, if the ounce and half-ounce Avoirdupois are employed with the Troy dram and its subdivisions, the ingredients must be taken in improper proportions. It is to be lamented, that the Avoirdupois weights are not banished entirely from the shops of apothecaries.

The measures likewise for liquors in this country are of different sorts: with one sort beer being measured, with the other wine. We employ the latter; using that measure for a pint, which is called a *wine-pint*.

This pint we divide thus:

The pint	}	contains	{	sixteen ounces.
The ounce				eight drams.

The gallon contains eight pints.

As a pound weight of scarcely any liquor fills the measure which we call a *pint*, we have every where prefixed P. or M. as each substance is prescribed by weight or measure.\*

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\* The precaution abovementioned, though highly necessary in the original Latin of the PHARMACOPOEIA, is not so generally required in an English translation. In English, the word PINT distinguishes the *Libra* by measure from that by weight, without ambiguity. With regard to the ounce and its divisions, the words *by weight* or *by measure* will, in this Translation, be constantly inserted, where there can be a doubt.

We deem mortars made of brass, or copper, improper for preparing medicines. †

Also measures, funnels, and vessels used for the evaporating of liquids, which are made of copper, lead, or a mixed metal of which some part is copper or lead, we would have carefully avoided.

The Thermometer we employ is that of FAHRENHEIT.

By CALOR FERVENS, a *boiling\* heat*, must be understood an heat from 200 to 212 degrees.

By † The propriety of this and the following injunction needs little proof. — It is certain, that even the softer absorbent substances, rubbed for a short time in a bell-metal mortar, usually supposed not liable to easy abrasion, acquire in some degree a cupreous quality; as appears on the affusion of volatile alkali. — As to vessels of *lead* and its compounds, the danger attending their use is universally known and acknowledged. — See Mr. BLIZARD'S Essay on bell-metal mortars and pewter vessels, 8vo, 1786.

\*Although the heat of boiling water is 212 degrees, yet, on removing the vessel containing it from the fire, its heat

By CALOR LENIS, a *gentle heat*, is meant an heat from 90 to 100 degrees.

Whenever we use the words SPECIFIC GRAVITY, the substance treated of we suppose to be of 55 degrees of heat.

is somewhat less; and, as the word *fervens* is only used in the Directions for aqueous infusions and solutions, the word *boiling* may not be an improper translation of it.

The error here a fault that is meant  
an part from 00 to 100 degrees

Whenever we use the words specific  
gravity, the substance tested at weight  
is to be of 22 degrees of heat

is four whistles; and as the word is original in  
the functions for various motions and solutions, the  
word being may not be an improper addition of it

MATHIAS

## MATERIA MEDICA,

## THE MATERIA MEDICA.

## A.

Abrotonum, <i>Southern-wood,</i> the <i>Herb.</i>	Artemisia <i>Abrotanum</i> , Linnæi Species Plantarum.
Abfinthium mariti- mum, <i>Sea-Wormwood,</i> the <i>Top.</i>	Artemisia <i>maritima</i> , L. S. P.
Abfinthium vulgare, <i>Common Wormwood,</i> the <i>Herb.</i>	Artemisia <i>Abfinthi-</i> <i>um</i> , L. S. P.
Acetosa pratensis, <i>Meadow Sorrel,</i> the <i>Leaf.</i>	Rumex <i>Acetosa</i> , L. S. P.

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Acidum