PREFACE.

After much delay, the causes of which it would be tedious and of little moment to mention, we are at length enabled to present to the Medical Profession a new Edition of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia. We do so with no little anxiety for its success; for notwithstanding the time and care that have been bestowed upon it, we are conscious that the extraordinary progress, which has been made in the sciences of Therapeutics, Chemistry and Pharmacy during the last two-and-twenty years, has rendered the adaptation of a Pharmacopœia to the modern state of Physic no light task, and constituted the

work itself almost a new one rather than a corrected Edition.

In the plan of the present Pharmacopœia we have thought it advisable to deviate materially in several respects from those of former years.

That we have departed from all previous practice of Colleges in this country by publishing our Pharmacopœia in the English language is an alteration, which, as it has been sanctioned by the almost unanimous consent of the College, will also, we apprehend, meet with the general approbation of the medical public. The time is perhaps gone by when public opinion required as a test of learning that a College of Medicine should write in Latin alone; and it may even be questioned whether the practice be not open to censure as leading to risks of inaccuracy in preparing and compounding drugs. Besides, the favourable reception of unauthorized translations of former Pharmacopœias, together

with the slow sale of the last Latin Edition of 1817, seemed sufficiently to indicate the wishes of the profession on this subject, and to show that the Latin language cannot be any longer retained, without occasioning, as of late, serious delays and obstructions in the way of future improvement.

The increasing frequency and extent of the adulteration of drugs induced us to propose a few years ago to the Royal College of Physicians of London, in the course of certain negociations relative to an Imperial or General Pharmacopœia for the Empire, that to the List of the Materia Medica there should be added a short statement of characters for ascertaining, that the leading articles are free from known sophistications, and of the due degree of purity for medical use. The suggestion has been partly adopted in the recent edition of the London Pharmacopœia; and in the present work

we have endeavoured to carry more completely into effect the principles we propounded. In judging of the attempt now made to enable practitioners and druggists to defend themselves and the public against the present notorious practices, it must be steadily kept in view, that our object has been to avoid all tedious or difficult methods of analysis; to disregard those means which an accomplished chemist alone can turn to account; and to adopt such characters only as may be applied with the aid of that ordinary knowledge of Practical Chemistry and Pharmacy, which, according to the rules of Universities and other medical institutions, every medical student ought now to acquire. Several of the formulæ, we are aware, are more defective than is desirable: For several articles of importance it has been found impracticable at present to furnish any simple and trustworthy characters: But nevertheless we have not hesi-

tated to produce our inquiries as they stand, trusting their correction and extension to time, and the criticisms of competent authorities.

It has occurred to the College that, as the Chemical preparations now in use are prepared in the present day not by practitioners or druggists, but in a great measure by chemical manufacturers, who will scarcely be guided by Colleges in their processes, a considerable proportion of the Chemical formulæ might have been omitted without injury. On the whole, however, it has been thought advisable to put it in the power of every medical man to prepare his own chemical compounds if he chooses; and with that view we have taken care to select those processes which are the most simple and the most certain, though they may not be always either the cheapest or the most productive. As in former editions, so in the present Pharmacopœia, it has not been thought requisite to describe

particularly the apparatus to be employed. At the same time it is right to mention here, that in one process of very frequent application, the process of distillation, complete success cannot be easily attained, especially on the small scale, without the substitution of a different apparatus for the retort and receiver hitherto commonly used in this country. In all operations, except where inorganic acids are to be distilled, it is greatly preferable to use a globular mattrass, to which is fitted with a cork a tube cut obliquely at its lower end, curved above at a somewhat acute angle, and fitted at its other end to a refrigeratory. This refrigeratory consists of a long narrow cylinder slightly inclined to the horizon, and of a tube which passes along the centre of the cylinder, and is fixed at each end so that the space between them is air-tight; and by means of a funnel entering at the lower end of this interspace, and an exit-tube from its upper extremity, a stream of

cold water may be kept constantly running, by which refrigeration and the condensation of vapours within the inner tube are far more effectually accomplished than by any other mode that has hitherto been devised.

There is no department of our late inquiries which has given us less satisfaction than that of the Nomenclature of the articles of the Materia Medica. We believe there are few physicians, and not many chemists, who now entertain any doubt that the Colleges committed a great error, when they were first seduced by the philosophical attractions of modern Chemical nomenclature, to abandon for the terms of scientific chemistry the trite names formerly used in Pharmacy and medical practice. The more decorous dress of science or philosophy has been dearly purchased at the cost of being compelled to follow the changing fashion of the day. We apprehend that practitioners will not submit

much longer to the constant fluctuations which have been for some time forced upon them in pharmaceutic nomenclature. We have done our best to put a stop to this evil. The result has been necessarily a patchwork, of which we cannot boast, but which the public will probably receive in consideration of its convenience. A uniform nomenclature for pharmacy is now unattainable, unless, indeed, we were to imitate the example of others by following the footsteps of chemistry through its changes and refinements.

We continue to employ the system of weights hitherto adopted by the Colleges of this country, namely, that commonly called Apothecaries' Weight. But at the same time we must confess we have never been able to see the force of those objections, which prevented the introduction of the Imperial system of weights into the practice of Medicine and Phar-

the corresponding measures, or equal to 1 + $\frac{17}{173}$ of the measures.

The substitution of measures instead of weights for ascertaining the quantities of fluids has rendered many alterations necessary in the apparent proportions of the ingredients in the formulas; but on due attention being paid to the densities of the liquids, and to the relation subsisting between weights and measures, it will be seen that in very few of the old formulæ has any material change been really made upon the strength of the preparations.

For ascertaining the densities of fluids, we recommend the Hydrometer of Twaddell, or Lovi's Density Beads: and we understand the temperature to be taken at 60° of Fahrenheit's scale.

macy, on the occasion of the late reform in the national weights and measures.

The following table represents the relations of the different apothecaries' weights, and the signs by which they are to be denoted in prescriptions.

one grain,	gr.i		
one scruple,	℈i = ...		20 grains.
one drachm,	ʒi = ...	℈iii =	60 grains.
one ounce,	℥i = ...	ʒviii =	480 grains.
one pound,	℔i = ...	℥xii =	5760 grains.

In former editions we directed that the quantities of fluids, as well as solids, should be determined by weight. Measurement, however, is so much more convenient for fluids, that in practice it will always be followed; and we have therefore adopted in the present Pharmacopœia the system of measures lately introduced by the Royal College of Physicians of London, the basis of which is the Imperial Standard measure. The following table represents the deno-

minations of this system of measures and their signs for use in prescriptions.

one minim,	m.		
one fluidrachm,	f℥ = ...		60 minims.
one fluidounce,	f℥ = ...	f℥ viii =	480 minims.
one pint,	O = ...	f℥ xx =	9600 minims.
one gallon,	C = ...	O viii =	76,800 mins.

In using these measures it must be observed that the minim, fluidrachm, and fluidounce differ somewhat from those currently used till two years ago; so that most graduated vessels hitherto employed in Scotland are not exactly available for the prescriptions and processes of this Pharmacopœia. It must likewise be remembered, that the denominations of measure now adopted bear no precise relation to the seemingly equivalent denominations of weight: That is, the minim, fluidrachm, and fluidounce, do not indicate by weight a grain, drachm, and ounce of water,—these weights being about a tenth more than