

PREFACE.

THE Committee of Revision herewith presents to all who take an interest in our national Pharmacopœia, the first part of a digest of criticisms, and of suggestions for improvement, of the text at present in force. The utility of such a compilation has been so well demonstrated through the benefit derived by the present Committee from the Digest published by their predecessors, that its publication, in advance of the next succeeding Decennial Convention, either in a serial form or otherwise, should be understood to be one of the duties of each future Committee of Revision.

For the work of preparing the present compilation, the undersigned was fortunate enough in again securing the services of Mr. Hans M. Wilder of Philadelphia, who also prepared the several parts of the Digest published by the preceding Committee.

The chief sources of information were the leading pharmaceutical journals of this country and of Europe, the Proceedings of the American Pharmaceutical Association, the Treatises on Pharmacy by various authors, and other works of reference, and particularly the Circulars of the Committee of Revision, a list of which will be found further on.

Many of the abstracts in this Digest appear in a very condensed form, and, in some cases, a mere reference only is given to the publication in which information on the subject is to be found. This was done in all cases where an abstract would not have sufficed to present all the essential features of the original. It will therefore be necessary for every one who desires to use this Digest for purposes of study or investigation, to refer to the original sources. Indeed, it is advisable to do this in all cases, since the function of the Digest is rather to draw attention to the original papers, than to attempt to render reference to them unnecessary.

It was intended that the present Part I. of the Digest should represent the literature which had appeared since the issue of the new Pharmacopœia up to July 1st, 1896. This object has, in the main, been attained, although there have been a number of omissions, mostly unavoidable, and in a few cases the above mentioned date has been overstepped for practical reasons.

The Committee will endeavor to make amends for all omissions, so far as they come to its notice, in the succeeding parts.

Some criticisms or remarks will be found in the text without the quotation of any author or source. These were nearly all inserted by the compiler or the undersigned editor, as they occurred to them at the time of writing out the text or of reading the proofs, either as criticisms of their own, or because they remembered having encountered them somewhere, without being able to recall the source.

It is hoped that this publication will accomplish the object for which it is designed, namely, to facilitate the work for those who are engaged in researches calculated to still further improve our national Pharmacopœia. The Committee will be thankful for any suggestions or contributions, which will improve the usefulness of this Digest.

CHARLES RICE,

*Chairman of the Committee of Revision and
Publication of the Pharmacopœia of the
United States of America.*

NEW YORK, *February 22, 1897.*