

PREFACE

TO SEVENTEENTH EDITION.

THE Sixteenth Edition has been out of print for nearly twelve months, and the delay in the appearance of the present one is largely due to an increase in the work of revising and bringing up to date our notes on the 'Official' Characters, Tests, and Preparations, an increase entailed by the numerous changes in the new Edition of the British Pharmacopœia.

Several important alterations have been made in the arrangement, so as to facilitate reference. Immediately following the name of each substance is given the information which is of most use to the Medical Practitioner and the Dispenser. The paragraphs appear in the following order:—Solubility, Medicinal Properties, Dose, Prescribing Notes, Incompatibles, lists of 'Official Preparations' and 'Not Official' preparations, Antidotes, and Foreign Pharmacopœias. In the two paragraphs 'Description' and 'Tests,' the B.P. requirements are given in large type, and our comments thereon in small type. Then follow the 'Official' preparations, and information on preparations which are 'Not Official.'

Since the publication of the last edition of the 'Companion,' many new substances have been introduced into medicine, and are noticed in these pages. Japan and Mexico have issued new Pharmacopœias, Norway a new edition, France and Germany supplements.

As heretofore, the formulas for the preparations are expressed as far as practicable in parts, solids by weight liquids by measure, which may be translated into ounces and fluid ounces,

grammes and cubic centimetres, or any other corresponding weights and measures. Many of the B.P. quantities are still more conveniently stated in definite weights and measures rather than in parts.

In view of the rapidly increasing importance of treatment by Therapeutic Agents of Bacterial origin, a chapter on this subject by Dr. Hewlett has been added.

The Editor regrets to have to record the death of his brother, A. H. Squire, who had previously assisted in the revision of the work, and whose name has appeared with his own on the title-page for twenty years. The Editor also wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to the various members of his staff who have assisted in the preparation of this edition, and to various friends who have supplied information on subjects with which their names have been particularly associated. His thanks are specially due to Dr. Taylor Grant, who has revised the Medicinal Properties, and to Mr. E. Morell Holmes, who has read the proof-sheets and given particular attention to the part relating to the Organic Materia Medica, and who has also made several important suggestions which have been adopted.

There has been an increase of one hundred and seven pages, but the size of the book has been kept nearly the same as before by using a somewhat thinner paper.

P. W. SQUIRE.

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