

P R E F A C E

TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

THE very great merit of Pereira's Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, having attracted the attention of the profession in the United States, it is believed that an important service is performed, in rendering it accessible, by the publication of an American edition. It is by far the most comprehensive treatise upon the subject in the English language. Replete with erudition and at the same time most satisfactory with respect to references; it is admirably suited to the wants of the advanced student and the practitioner; while from the distinctness of the facts, their methodical arrangement, and the clear philosophical explanations connected with them, it meets the wants of the student who is in search of the first lessons in the science. It may, therefore, with equal benefit be employed as a work of reference, or as an elementary text book, in which two-fold character it occupies an unusual position.

More completely to adapt it to the demands of this country, such additions have been made as are deemed to be essential. Thus, the portion devoted to pharmaceutical information, is in the original work too strictly local, as it is confined almost exclusively to the peculiarities of the three British Colleges; to obviate this, the nomenclature of the last edition of the United States' Pharmacopœia has been introduced, by inserting the name of each article adopted by that standard, in connexion with those assumed by the authorities uniformly cited by the author, or by expressing a correspondence of name with one or more of them by the symbols (U. S.) in union with similar symbols used by him to indicate the authority. The formulæ of the United States Pharmacopœia have also been set forth with the formulæ of the standards previously mentioned, and where a formula has been adopted, or a medicinal preparation assumed by our own work,

entirely differing from those found in the text, it has been presented, with all the details necessary for its employment.

Succinct histories of the most important indigenous medicines of the United States, of which no account had been given, have been introduced in their appropriate places, as *Cassia Marilandica*, *Chenopodium*, *Cimicifuga*, *Cornus Florida*, *Eupatorium*, *Gillenia*, *Juglans*, *Pix Canadensis*, *Podophyllum*, *Prunus-Virginiana*, *Sanguinaria* and *Veratrum viride*; others of minor importance have also been noticed, and a sufficient exposition of their properties made, for their employment under circumstances that may render them expedient.

The matter that has been added, has been included within brackets, and distinguished by the insertion of the initials of the editor.

February 1, 1843.

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