

217
239
245
255
260
270
274
278
281
284
287
297
308
312
315
323
338
367

PHARMACOPOEIA
LONDINENSIS.

THE LONDON DISPENSATORY.

PONDERA, MENSURÆ, &c

WEIGHTS, MEASURES, &c.

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

B

We

* 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

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.

The measures likewise for liquids 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

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.

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.*

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

Also measures, funnels, and vessels used for the evaporation of liquids, which are made of copper, lead, or a mixed metal of which

B 2 some

* The precaution above-mentioned, 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.

† 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 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.

4 WEIGHTS, MEASURES, &c.

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 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.

† Although the heat of boiling water is 212 degrees, yet, on removing the vessel containing it from the fire, its heat is somewhat less; and, as the word *fervens* is chiefly used in the directions for infusions and solutions, the word *boiling* may not be an improper translation of it.

MATERIA