

PREFACE

TO EIGHTEENTH EDITION.

THE Seventeenth Edition of SQUIRE'S COMPANION was published in 1899, and since that time a great advance has been made in the testing of Drugs and Chemicals used in medicine; a very large number of new synthetic products have also been introduced. Several foreign Pharmacopœias have issued new editions, viz., Austrian, Belgian, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss and United States; the Japanese is a new Pharmacopœia.

To bring SQUIRE'S COMPANION up to date and to make it conform to modern requirements, it has been necessary to practically re-write it from cover to cover. The general arrangement of the book remains the same as before. Substances which are official in the British Pharmacopœia have the names in larger type than those which are 'Not Official,' and the same distinction also applies to the preparations, it is therefore quite easy to see at a glance whether any particular substance or preparation is official or not. This is, moreover, supplemented by a list of 'Official' and 'Not Official' preparations given under each substance immediately following the dose, so that a prescriber can quickly ascertain the various forms in which any medicament can be given. Following the precedent of the previous editions, the formulas are given in parts, solids by weight, liquids by measure, and where it has been necessary to depart from this course, it is stated in the text. In dealing with German and other Continental Pharmacopœias, it must be understood that parts refer to parts by weight.

The arrangement of the matter and the headings to the several paragraphs, which have always been the distinctive feature of the COMPANION, have been retained—'Solubility,' 'Medicinal Properties,' 'Dose,' 'Prescribing Notes,' 'Incompatibles,' list of 'Official Preparations,' 'Antidotes,' and 'Foreign Pharmacopœias,' this arrangement having been found very convenient to those who use the work as a book of reference. The term 'Medicinal Properties,' although very old-fashioned, has been retained in order to keep the plan of the book uniform with previous editions; this portion has been carefully read and corrected by Dr. Taylor Grant.

The 'Descriptive Notes' have been written specially for this book by Mr. E. M. Holmes; they deal with the principal distinguishing features of the vegetable drugs, the commercial qualities, and the probable contaminations and sophistications. He has also assisted in the revision of the Organic Materia Medica.

The 'Tests' have been entirely re-written, and include a critical comparison of the tests given in the Pharmacopœias of Great Britain,

Germany, and the United States of America, together with such further tests as have been found useful in the laboratory of the Author. The French Codex, so recently published, could not be included in the critical comparison mentioned above, but the more important tests therein contained have been dealt with, and this work has delayed the publication of the COMPANION beyond the time at which it was intended to have been ready.

The standardisation of preparations is exciting special interest, and considerable attention has been devoted to this subject, the standards and methods for ensuring them, which are employed in various Pharmacopœias are given, and are supplemented by figures which have been obtained from work devoted to this purpose in the author's laboratory.

A large number of formulas which appear in the British Pharmaceutical Codex are compared with those previously published in books of reference in common use.

The chapter on Therapeutic Agents of Microbial Origin has been revised and partly re-written by Dr. R. Tanner Hewlett.

The author wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to the 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 Mr. Charles M. Caines, who has devoted the whole of his attention to the Chemical portion, and who has been the principal chemist employed on the experimental work.

P. W. SQUIRE.

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