

CANADA LANCET.

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SECOND YEAR.

THE TINCTURES OF THE NEW BRITISH PHARMACOPOEIA.

ABBREVIATIONS.—The old pharmacopœias will be designated by the letters; L. for that of London; E. for that of Edinburgh; and D. for that of Dublin.

Avoirdupois weights adapted.—32½ grains = 1 oz. 16 oz. = 1 lb.

Imperial measures employed.—60 minims = 1 drachm. 8 drachms = 1 ounce. 20 fl. oz. = 1 pint. 3 pints = 1 gall. m.

An *Avoirdupois* ounce weighs 42½ grains less than a Troy ounce.

An *Imperial* pint of 20 oz. measures 19 oz. 1 dr. 3½ m. of *Wine* measure.

We stated last month that the fluid ounce of the *Imperial* pint was smaller by 19 minims than the ounce of the old *wine* pint. And as the latter is the ounce indicated by the graduated measures purchased in the United States, and in general use in many parts of Canada, it must be borne in mind that less than 19 of them are equal to the 20 small ounces directed in the following formulæ, and forming the *Imperial* pint. This is a matter of some moment when preparing *laudanum* or other strong tinctures.

The change in weights will be rather a convenience than otherwise to the generality of medical men; for when compelled to prepare any remedy for themselves, they can readily procure the proper weights at any retail shop in the country.

In their preface, the compilers state that, with few exceptions, the tinctures made with dangerous ingredients have been brought to one standard of strength, so that an ordinary dose would be from 15 to 25 minims, while the remainder have been left as formerly, to be given in doses of from one to two drachms.

We will, for the sake of comparison, reduce the *Troy* weights of the former recipes of the three British Colleges to *Avoirdupois*, to show the differences between the old and the new formulæ.

Tinctura Aconiti.—Pulv. aconite root, 2½ oz.; alcohol, 20 fl. oz. (Dose of this tincture 15 to 25 minims, to be carefully increased.) The L. was nearly 8 oz. av. of the root to 20 fl. oz.; and the D. was 10 oz., also of the root, to 20 fl. oz. Fleming's tincture of aconite is 15 oz. av. to 20 fl. oz. of alcohol. (Dose of Fleming's tinct. 3 to 5 drops three times a day, to be cautiously increased.)

Tr. Aloes.—Socotrine aloes ½ oz.; ext. licorice 1½ oz.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose from half an ounce to an ounce and a half.) This is the old unchanged tincture of the three colleges.

Tr. Aloes et Myrrha.—This, one of the most valuable of our tinctures, has not been allowed a place in the new pharmacopœia.

Tr. Ammonæ Co.—This preparation has been wisely rejected.

Tr. Arnica.—Pulv. arnica root 1 oz.; alcohol 20 fl. oz. This tincture is now for the first time introduced. It is intended for external use.

Tr. Assafœtida.—Assafœtida 2½ oz.; alcohol 20 fl. oz. (A medium dose is one drachm.) This does

not materially differ from the former three pharmacopœias.

Tr. Aurantii.—Bitter-orange peel 2 oz.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. This is similar to the old formulæ.

Tr. Belladonnæ.—Powdered leaves 1 oz.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose 20 to 40 m. to be gradually increased.) The L. was 2 oz. and 85 grs. to the 20 fl. oz., and the D. 2½ oz. to the same quantity.

Tr. Benzoini Co.—Benzoin 2 oz.; storax 1½ oz.; tolu ½ oz.; Soc. aloes 160 grs.; alcohol 20 fl. oz. (Dose from half to two drachms.) This does not vary much from the old receipts.

Tr. Bucco.—Buchu leaves 2½ oz.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose from 1 to three drachms.) This also remains unchanged.

Tr. Calumbæ.—Calumbo 2½ oz.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose from one to two drachms.) This was the D. formulæ, the L. and E. being but 1½ oz. and 64 grs. to the 20 fl. oz.

Tr. Camphoræ cum Opio.—Powdered opium 40 grs.; benzoic acid 40 grs.; camphor 30 grs.; oil of anise 30 m.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. With the exception of a slight increase in the camphor, this is the old formulæ over again. It would have been much improved by the addition of a little honey and cochineal; had infants a voice in the matter, they would certainly second the recommendation. (Half an ounce contains a grain of opium.)

Tr. Cannabis Indicæ.—Extract of Indian hemp 1 oz.; alcohol 20 fl. oz. (Dose from 15 to 25 minims.) This is the unchanged Dublin recipe.

Tr. Cantharidis.—Powdered flies ½ oz. (109½ grs.); proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose from 20 to 40 m. in mucilage or luscid tea.) This was the D. formulæ; the L. and E. contained 10½ grs. more in the 20 oz.

Tr. Capsici.—Cayenne pepper ½ oz. (328½ grs.); alcohol 20 fl. oz. (Dose one to two drachms.) The L. and E. were 28 grs. less in the 20 oz., but the D. contained 1½ oz. av. to the 20 fl. oz.

Tr. Cardamomi.—This has not been admitted; it was an E. tincture.

Tr. Cardamomi Co.—Cardamoms ½ oz.; caraway ½ oz.; raisins, freed from seeds 2 oz.; cinnamon ½ oz.; cochineal 60 grs.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose one to two drachms.) This was the D. receipt with the addition of raisins, and is a half stronger than that of the L. or E.

Tr. Cascarillæ.—Cascarilla 2½ oz.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose from one to two drachms.) This was the D.; the L. and E. were 2½ oz. av. to 20 fl. oz.

Tr. Cassia.—This E. tincture has been omitted.

Tr. Castorei.—Castor 1 oz.; alcohol 20 fl. oz. (Dose from one to two drachms or more.) The L. and E. were 1½ oz. and 53 grs. av. to the 20 fl. oz.

Tr. Castorei Am.—This has been rejected.

Tr. Catechu.—Catechu 2½ oz.; cinnamon 1 oz.; proof spirit 20 fl. oz. (Dose from one to two drs.) The L. and E. had 1½ oz. and 74 grs. av. of catechu to the 20 oz., and the D. 2 oz. to the 20 oz.