

drugs, has undergone some modification. The changes thus made, will, we think, be admitted by all to be a distinct improvement.

With the alteration in the description of the drugs, numerous alterations in nomenclature have been made. Hydrochlorates are in future to be called hydrochlorides, and hydrobromates, hydrobromides. The Pharmacopœia no longer speaks of bromide of sodium, carbonate of lithium, &c., but of sodium bromide, lithium carbonate, &c. Carbolic acid is now termed phenol, and arsenious acid, arsenious anhydride. Many of the Latin names have also been altered. Creasotum is now spelt creosotum, and asafœtida, asafetida. Ipecacuanha becomes ipecacuanhæ radix, and gelsemium, gelsemii radix, coca becomes cocæ folia, &c. The words aloin, pepsin, and pyroxylin, become now aloinum, pepsinum, and pyroxylinum. Tabellæ nitroglycerini become tabellæ trinitrini, while the modified preparations of lunar caustic become now argenti nitras mitigatus, and argenti nitras induratus. Another change is in the gender of all names ending in "as," such as carbonas, tartras, &c. Such were formerly regarded as feminine, now they are regarded as masculine, and associated adjectives must correspond. This brings the English Pharmacopœia in line with those of continental Europe and of America.

Considerable freedom has been exercised in the matter of discarding obsolete drugs. The names of 188 have been dropped from the present edition. In regard to the great majority of these, we are sure that the general feeling will be one of thankfulness. As to a few of the omissions, however, the feeling with many in Canada will be that of surprise. We are at a loss to understand, why cinchonine and cinchonidine should have been dropped, or veratrum viride with all its preparations, or extract of aconite, acetic extract of colchicum, and extract of sôcrotrine aloes. Possibly some of these may reappear in the addendum shortly to be published.

Examining more carefully the list of drugs omitted we note that all the cataplasmata, enemata, vapores, and most of the decocta have disappeared. The reason given by Dr. Leech in a recent article, is that the Pharmacopœia is not issued for the purpose of indicating the methods in which drugs may be employed. Doubtless in this the profession generally will agree with him. In this *index expurgatorius* we also note that all dietetic substances, such as pearl barley flour, bread crumbs, eggs, milk, cucumbers, lettuce, vinegar, &c., substances, which, as the *Lancet* says, were intimately associated in the professional mind with the constituents of a salad, or with the index to Mrs. Beaton's domestic pharmacopœia, are no longer stamped with the official brand. With these have disappeared most of the domestic