

CANADIAN  
PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL

VOL. X, No. 7. TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1877. WHOLE No. CIV.

Original and Selected Papers.

A NEW MODE OF MAKING GREY POWDER.\*

BY ALEXANDER BOTTLE.

With a slight alteration in the relative proportion of mercury to chalk, the formula for Hydrargyrum c. Creta in the British Pharmacopœia, and the direction for preparing it, remain the same as the formula and *modus operandi* recognised and practised in the first half of the last century. We might from this fact be led to infer that the resulting combination was all that could be hoped for or desired, that it was uniform in its physical condition and reliable in its action, and that from its long and continuous use in medicine there would not be at the present day doubt in the minds of any as to its medicinal value, or difference of opinion regarding the mechanical subdivision or chemical combination of the metal to which its therapeutical action might be more fairly attributed; and yet I venture to assert that there is no preparation in the British Pharmacopœia about which more diversion of opinion has been entertained, and as I believe will by the discussion that follows, still be shown to exist.

Reference to the observations of writers of good repute who have commented on this preparation lead us through a chronological labyrinth of contradiction, showing alternately, mechanical subdivision and oxidation of the metal in the ascendant, and temporarily holding the weather side in the argument. In the first volume of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* is published an elaborate and exhaus-

\*Read at an Evening Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, December 6, 1876; published in the *Pharm. Jour. and Trans.*