### MATERIA MEDICA.

## UNUSUAL PRESCRIPTIONS.

The British Pharmaceutical Conference has issued a circular to the various medical corporations and to the medical journals, setting forth that at the recent Conference at Bradford the following resolutions were passed with reference to the prescription of unusual doses by medical men:-

"That this Conference, having considered various proposals for the use of special signs to mark unusual doses on prescriptions, and the great advantages to be derived from such signs, considers that the bracketed initial letters of the prescriber's signature, written immediately after the unusual dose, is the best suited for the purpose.

"This Conference also respectfully urges upon medical men the importance of the prescriber's full name and address being written on all prescriptions, to facilitate communication between the prescriber and dispenser.

"This Conference likewise considers it desirable for the dispenser to retain all prescriptions in which initialed unusual doses are prescribed."

It is due to the profession, as well as to the pharmaceutists and the importance of the subject, that the College of Physicians should consider this question and advise the profession. It seems to us that it would be enough to underline any unusual dose in a prescription. Initials are too ostentatious. It is not desirable to attract the attention of patients to the fact that they are taking unusual doses. We quite agree with the Conference as to the second resolution, urging the full name and address of the prescriber. This would require an alteration in the bye-laws of the College of Physicians.-[Lancet.

# A GRATEFUL PATIENT.

It is not often that we have the pleasure of chronicling such a remarkable instance of thoughtful provision as was displayed by a gentleman who recently died in Guy's Hospital. The gentleman was Mr. John Cunliffe, Pickersgill-Cunliffe, who was admitted into the hospital on Sept. 25th, with compound fracture of the right tibia extending into the knee-joint, and compound fracture of the left tibia and fibula—the result of a railway accident. On admission into the hospital he was placed under the care of Mr. Davies-Colley, who, with the acquiescence of the consulting surgeon, Mr. Cock, at once performed amputation through the left knee-joint, but endeavoured to preserve the right leg. Unfortunately, however, in about eleven days secondary hæmorrhage took place in the wound on the right leg, and amputation through the thigh was performed. But the patient did not rally after the operation, and died next morning. Previous to his death however, "the grateful patient" executed a codicil to his will, by which he bequeathed £25 to the Lock Hospital; to St. Bartholomew's Hospital a sum sufficient to constitute his eldest son a life governor; to Guy's Hospital, in the event of his dying there, £250; there were also legacies of £100 to each of his two medical attendants, and .225 each to the two nurses who waited upon him while in the hospital.

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#### TWENTIETH SESSION, 1873-74.

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#### TEACHING STAFF.

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MICHAFL LAVELL, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children. MICHAFL SULLIVAN, M.D., Professor of Surgery

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OCTAVIUS YATES, M.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Sanitary Science.

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