

MATERIA MEDICA.

Warrington. PAREIRA'S *Manual of Materia Medica*. By Farre, Bentley, and

GARROD'S *Essentials of Materia Medica*.

ROYLE'S *Manual of Materia Medica*. Fifth edition.

PHARMACY, ETC.

PARRISH'S *Practical Pharmacy*, 1867.

MOHR AND REDWOOD'S *Practical Pharmacy*.

WITTSTEIN'S *Practical Pharmaceutical Chemistry*.

British Pharmacopæia, 1867.

PAREIRA'S *Prescription Book*. Tenth edition.

ON LINSEED AND LINSEED MEAL.*

BY THOMAS GREENISH, F.C.S.

Although the linseed meal poultice is by no means a modern invention, yet the first mention of it (*Cataplasma Lini*) occurs in the "Ph. Lond." of 1836, where it is directed to be made with bruised linseed (*Sem. Lini Contriti*), and the same also in the "Ph. Lond." of 1851; but in the "British Phar." of 1867, the terms used are "Lini Farina," rendered "Linseed Meal," and the explanation which accompanies it is this, "The cake of linseed from which the oil has been pressed reduced to powder." In some establishments to this day, a crushed linseed is kept for sale to the public. It has, however, been found that this seed is too rich in oil to be kept long in such a condition, as the oil it contains, when so exposed to the atmosphere, rapidly oxidizes, and acquires a degree of rancidity which is very injurious when the poultice made from it is applied to open wounds.

In consequence of this defect it has been the custom of the trade to use a much less oily article, which is simply the meal produced by grinding the dry linseed cake of commerce. The directions respecting this article of the *Materia Medica*, found in the last edition of the "Brit. Phar." of 1867, attempt to solve this difficulty by ordering the powdered linseed cake to be mixed with olive oil, in the proportion of two fluid ounces to the pound, when sent out for use, which is necessarily a very inconvenient practice. In addition to the inconvenience caused by this oxidation of the oil, another has arisen by reason of the impurity or adulteration of the linseed cake from which the *Lini Farina* is produced; and it is the object of this

* Read before the British Pharmaceutical Conference and published in the *Chemist and Druggist*.