

THE NEW BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA.

BY

A. D. BLACKADER, B.A., M.D.,

Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, McGill University, Montreal.

For some time past the medical profession, not only in England, but throughout Greater Britain, has been awaiting with interest the appearance of the New Pharmacopœia. The volume is now before us.

To us in Canada, the edition is of interest as being the first in the preparation of which any reference has been made to the wants of the more distant portions of the empire. In the preface it is stated that assistance has been sought from the various medical and pharmaceutical bodies in the Dominion, India and the Colonies, and that many of the recommendations of these bodies have been incorporated in the text of the present edition. We are also informed that an addendum will shortly be published dealing at greater length with plants and medicinal substances which have as yet a comparatively local reputation and employment, but which nevertheless are recommended for notice by the official representatives of the medical profession in the more distant parts of the empire.

On examining the volume we notice that the metric system, which in previous editions was employed as an alternative only in the paragraphs relating to volumetric analysis, is in the present volume employed exclusively in these paragraphs, while such alternative employment is now extended to every official paragraph which makes use of the usual imperial system of weights and measures. Throughout the volume, we find both systems in juxtaposition, but the quantities thus given are not to be assumed as the equivalent of one another. Preparations made according to either system will contain as nearly as possible the same proportion of ingredients, but as a matter of course the two systems cannot both be used in the same operation.

The description of the various articles in the Pharmacopœia has undergone complete revision in the present edition. No subject is said to have given the committee more trouble than this part, for they have had to recognise as far as possible conflicting opinions on the part of experts. The alterations coming under this head, while not a matter of special interest to us, as practitioners, will we think be welcomed by our pharmaceutical brethren. Here it is sufficient to state that almost every article bearing on the description, source and botanical origin of