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THE TINCTURES AND WINES OF THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA*

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The solutions which we call by the doubtful appellation of "tinctures," form no insignificant item in the stock of a pharmacist. They have repeatedly been the subject of comment, and an apology is probably necessary for bringing them forward in the present paper. Why are they introduced into our *Materia Medica*? Is it because they are used by the physician as mere flavoring or preservative ingredients in their prescriptions? Or is it because they are really valuable and true solutions of active principles of plants, and having specific powers as medicinal agents? We think the latter to be the case, and have tried to find out the most exhaustive method of preparation, and for the elimination of a product similar in all respects to that of the recognized Pharmacopœia.

The following notes are the results of an extensive series of analyses and experiments made for the attainment of this object.

Some prefer the old process of maceration, others the more

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