

have over-passed middle life. We have already seen that tincture of digitalis is restricted to ʒss. , and we know that the successful treatment of delirium tremens by means of ʒss. doses is now one of the commonplaces of medicine; and Dr. Anstie draws special attention to the insufficient quantity ʒi. of tincture of hyoscyamus allowed, telling us that ʒss. is often required in asylum practice.

It must be within the experience of all to have prescribed potassium bromide in larger doses than 30 grains, and the absurdity of restricting iodide of potassium to 10 grains is almost too patent to require further remark. We all know that some of the most brilliant successes of medicine and surgery have been secured by the administration of 20, 30, 40, and even 60 grains.

Coming next to ipecacuanha, we find that, although its properties as an expectorant and emetic are recognized, no mention is made of its specific anti dysenteric powers; and a dispenser would therefore probably consider it his duty to cut down a prescription in which doses of from ʒss. to ʒj. of the powdered root were ordered to be taken every two hours.

The tonic dose of sulphate of zinc is put down at from one to two grains, although it is well known that more than double this quantity is often well borne in chorea; and 30 minims is considered the maximum quantity of tincture of ferri perch., although in erysipelas and acute rheumatism ʒj. is often administered with benefit. The minimum doses of liquor of morphia, hydrate of strychnia and tincture of nux vomica, are all placed too high at mxx. gr. 1-30 , and mxx. respectively; and the researches of Ringer have shown that we derive little benefit from the use of tincture of lobelia in asthma, unless we carry the dose beyond that laid down by authority at m30 . Now, although these are undoubtedly the principal instances in which the Pharmacopœia is hopelessly at variance with the modern development of therapeutical science, there are many other examples which I will not weary you by detailing.

Enough, I hope, has been said to convince you of the necessity for some alteration in the rules laid down for our guidance in the matter of dosage. The experienced medical man of course orders his drugs according to the dictates of his own personally acquired knowledge, and often arrives at practical conclusions, for which we might look in vain in our text-books; but the beginner feels himself hampered by authority, and the dispenser has his hands tied. On his counter lies the Pharmacopœia for constant reference, and, although not originally endowed with absolutely official powers, it has had that character forced upon it, and must abide the consequences. In any court of justice, in any professional controversy, its decision may at any time be invoked; and we have a right, therefore, to expect that we shall not be misled when its influence is thus brought to bear upon us. Not only should the scale of doses be at once raised, but pains might be taken to indicate the largest quantities