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## THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒIA.

What is the status of the British Pharmacopœia in Canada? This question has arisen during the discussion which has been provoked by the appearance of a Revised Edition. As the British Pharmacopœia is the legal standard for the preparation of medicines, for the British empire, it should be for the colonies, but Canada does things somewhat independently of the Mother Country. In the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, the feeling is quite general that the British Pharmacopœia is the authority, but some doubt has arisen owing to the regrettable decision a few years ago of the Dominion analyst, at Ottawa, who, after the examination of certain samples, decided that usage would allow Pharmacists to handle and dispense other medicines than those of the British Pharmacopœia.

The revision of the British Pharmacopœia this year contains so many important, even serious changes, that something should be done to ensure a proper understanding as to what to use in putting up a prescription. The Province of Quebec reached a fairly satisfactory agreement between doctors and pharmacists that the British Pharmacopœia should be considered in force on and after October, 1898. The recent meeting of the Canadian Medical Association afforded an opportunity for obtaining a Dominion pronouncement on the subject, and an agreement as to date for its enforcement was secured. This is well so far as it goes.

A letter from Dr. Leech, chairman of the British Pharmacopœia Committee indicates the fact that in England the idea prevails, that in Canada, the British Pharmacopœia is not held to be authoritative. The action of the Canadian Medical Association in appointing a Committee to endeavour to bring about a Dominion enactment in favour of the British Pharmacopœia was a good move. We trust that the