

rifle, with much greater certainty, if our aim be true, of placing the enemy *hors de combat*. But, in order to make true our aim, it is indispensable that we possess the most accurate and intimate knowledge of the remedies used. The infinite number of these remedies, both officinal and otherwise, renders this impracticable. Consequently, the practice obtains of combining an array of remedies in one prescription, with very uncertain results, often we fear with injury to the patient.

Although we are not so culpable in this respect as our ancestors; and, although a physician's knowledge and ability is not now gauged by the number and variety of articles he can combine, as in the days of "Mathiolus' Antidote," containing one hundred and twenty-four ingredients, or "Warburg's tincture," said originally to have contained over sixty; yet, there is room for advance in the simplification of prescriptions of the present day. Polypharmacy and science are necessarily antagonistic, consequently the former should be avoided, if we are to progress in the right direction. Otherwise, it will be necessary to still further divide the healing art, and have specialists in materia medica. However useful this might be to our ever-multiplying profession, it is obvious some objections might be raised by the patient, to furnishing the requisite honorarium to each physician, one to diagnose, and another to prescribe for every ill to which the flesh is heir.

Therefore, we hold that the general physician's armamentarium should be limited to established remedies in their best form; and of these, only such as can be prescribed with confidence, based on careful study of the experience of others as well as his own; and an intimate knowledge of their chemical, physiological and therapeutical properties.

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