

their work been done, and although it stands to reason that such a book cannot possibly be made to meet the peculiar views of every one, nevertheless it is acknowledged on all sides to be far ahead in practical utility to any other Pharmacopœia extant.

Many changes in nomenclature have been introduced, thus the Latin names of alkaloids have been made to terminate in *ina*, as for instance morphina, quinina, etc. So-called neutral principles have been made to terminate in *inum*, as santonium. The English names being morphine, quinine, etc., for alkaloids, and santolin, etc., in the case of neutral principles. Alumen denotes the sulphate of aluminium and potassium, instead of the sulphate of aluminium and ammonium; chirata, asafoetida, cambogia, for chiretta, assafoetida, gambogia, sulphidum for sulphuretum; manganum for manganese, etc. Some of these changes appear at first sight frivolous, but doubtless the revisers had good reason for their action.

The substitution of parts by weight for the actual weights and measures has been carried out, and will save a good deal of trouble to manufacturing pharmacists. Formulæ for pills and lozenges are given in grains and grammes.

There have been 229 substances dismissed which were official in the Pharmacopœia of 1870, while the number added amounts to 256. Among the pharmaceutical preparations added may be mentioned 11 abstracts, 10 solid extracts, 35 fluid extracts, 11 syrups, 22 tinctures and 6 wines.

The absence of doses to all the official preparations appears to be the worst feature of the book, and it will to a great extent prevent that supervision or checking of doses in prescriptions by the pharmacist, which was undoubtedly a great protection to the physician.

The tests of purity, detection of adulterants and physical properties of drugs are given with great minuteness of detail, and are evidently the work of certain well-known pharmacists on the Committee.

A change which has taken place, and which it would be as well to bear in mind, is in Ext. Aconite. The new extract is prepared from aconite root, while the extract of the Pharmacopœia of 1870 was made from the leaves. The strength of the former is stated on good authority to be about nine times that of the latter. In the same way conium seed has taken the place of the leaves in all preparations of the drug. The dose of Laudanum

of the new Pharmacopœia, judging by the formula, will be about 20 drops, while that of 1870 was 30 drops. Castoreum may be mentioned as one of the drugs of animal origin dropped from the Pharmacopœia. Castoreum is very largely used, especially by country practitioners in this Province. Ointments are still made with lard as their base, benzoated lard being ordered in most cases. Other ointments, such as carbolic acid ointment, have Unguentum as a base. Unguentum being composed of 80 parts of lard and 20 parts of yellow wax. A new base for ointments under the name of Petrolatum is introduced, but its use is left to the judgment of the prescriber.

We may return again to an analysis of the new United States Pharmacopœia and some of the new preparations contained therein, meantime we would say that the book as a whole is a great stride in advance. Fluid extracts have been brought almost to perfection. The new line of preparations called abstracta will be a great assistance, in pill making, besides being more exact than the old solid extracts. It is easy to be hypercritical and find fault, it is not quite so easy to revise and republish a Pharmacopœia. Every professor of Materia Medica and every manufacturing pharmacist will doubtless find something to say in the way of criticism, forgetting perhaps that they were invited to make their suggestions to the revisers long before the book was published.

*The Compend of Anatomy*, for use in the Dissecting Room, and in preparing for examinations. By JOHN B. ROBERTS, A.M., M.D., Lecturer on Anatomy in the Philadelphia School of Anatomy. Third edition. Philadelphia: G. C. Roberts & Co., publishers, 1882.

This little book seems to be admirably arranged, so as to give the most information in the least possible compass. We cannot say more in its favor, for this is precisely what it aims to do, and we think that its author has succeeded.

*Essentials of Vaccination*, a compilation of facts relating to Vaccine Inoculation and its influence in the Prevention of Small-Pox. By W. A. HARDAWAY, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Skin in the Postgraduate Faculty of the Missouri Medical College. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co., 1882.

Any one wishing to post himself thoroughly in all the facts concerning vaccination cannot do better than purchase this little volume. It is well