Canadian Druggist

Devoted to the interests of the General Drug Trade and to the Advancement of Pharmacy.

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TORONTO, JUNE, 1898.

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The British Pharmacopœia, 1898.

Copies of this book have now come to hand, and the attention of pharmacists is naturally being directed towards this work and the many changes made in it. Although the publication of the work has been officially announced, yet, strange to say, no date has been set in which it is supposed to supersede the edition of 1885, with its additions of 1890.

One would naturally suppose that the issue of the new would do away with the official recognition of the old. We believe, however, that it requires a pronouncement from the General Medical Council in order to set a date on which the new Pharmacopœia should become the standard for all preparations. Care will require to be exercised, as a matter of course, in the repetition of prescriptions which have been prepared according to the 1885 edition, and, until physicians make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the new work, it will perhaps be necessary, in the case of prescriptions containing preparations the strength of which differs from those formerly used, to consult the prescriber as to which preparation he prefers.

It will be remembered that recommendations were asked from representative bodies in the British colonies as to taking steps to make the work as much as possible of an Imperial character, but the only noticeable feature in this matter is an appendix of "Alternative Preparations Sanctioned for Use in India and the Colonies." It is also intimated that an addendum will be published, dealing more fully with this matter.

The changes in nomenclature are not many, the tendency of all being to ensure greater accuracy. The new drugs and chemicals which have obtained recognition are comparatively few. The volume is remarkable more for the number of omissions of articles which were included in the old Pharmacopecia rather than for the additions to the new.