

The following pages have been compiled from various sources, for the use of the Students of the Materia Medica Class, Queen's College.

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The term *Materia Medica*, in the strict sense, has reference only to material substances used in the treatment of disease, but in the more extended sense, it includes all remedial agents of whatever kind, whether material or otherwise, used in palliating, curing, or preventing disease. A Medicine is a substance which produces such changes in the vital functions as makes it available for curative purposes. Medicines differ from alimentary substances in not being essential to the support of life, in not being assimilated to the various organs but in some way altering or modifying the various vital actions.—Poisons differ in the degree of action—they have the inherent power of violently disturbing the system; they are not necessarily medicinal agents, although many of them under proper regulations are valuable as such.

By Therapeutics is understood the application of remedies to the cure of disease.

Pharmacy is that department which has reference to the collecting, preparing, preserving and dispensing of Medicines. Remedies are divided into those which act through the mind, and those acting directly on the body. The former may be called Mental, the latter Corporal Remedies. The internal affections of the mind, as fear, faith, and, above all, hope, are oftentimes used as powerful remedies. Coleridge says, "he is the best Physician who is the most ingenious inspirer of hope." The mind communicates with the external world through the senses, and in this way also powerful influences may be brought to bear on disease. Sound may be stimulating or soothing; color is not without its influence, and a good deal