

parts of opium are said to yield about one of extract. It is obviously inconsistent that while the latter is double or more generally more than double the strength of the former the dose should be the same.

Ext. Opii Liquid, and *Vin Opii*, of which 11 (10·9) minims equal one grain of moist opium, are directed to be administered in doses of from 10 to 40 minims, equal to nearly 1 to 4 grains of opium.

The dose of *Tinct. Opii* is given as from 5 to 40 minims. 14½ (14·63) minims equal one grain dry opium, making the dose range from about ¼ to nearly 3 grains. Estimating the amount of moisture in commercial opium to average 15 per cent. (an amount which by trials of many hundreds of pounds of opium I have found to be nearly correct), one grain of moist opium would be contained in about 12½ (12·43) minims, and the stated dose would range from ½ to 3½ grains.

This want of uniformity is rendered more evident by reducing to grains of moist opium the pharmacopœial dose :

Opium	-	-	-	-	0·5 to 2·0 grains.
<i>Ext. Opii</i>	-	-	-	-	1·0 to 4·0
<i>Ext. Opii Liquid</i>	-	-	-	-	0·9 to 3·7
<i>Tinct. Opii</i>	-	-	-	-	0·4 to 3·2
<i>Vin Opii</i>	-	-	-	-	0·9 to 3·7
<i>Pulv. Ipecac. co.</i>	-	-	-	-	0·5 to 1·7

It is not for a pharmacist to say what the correct dose of opium is, but whatever may be the amount fixed upon by competent authorities, it seems but reasonable that the doses of the various preparations should be made to correspond as nearly as possible. It may also be maintained that some uniform system of posology should be followed. Whether the average adult dose, or the maximum and minimum dose should be stated, I do not wish to determine, but one or other plan should be rigidly adhered to. From the table above given it is evident that the compilers of the British Pharmacopœia regarded this no more than their alleged rule of reducing to a uniform dose of 15 or 25 minims the more active medicinal tinctures.

Before drawing these remarks to a close I may state that in a foot-note to an article on *Vinum Opii* (p. 368 in editions of 1867 and 1874), that preparation is stated to be one-fifth weaker than *Vinum Opii*, P. L. The B. P. wine contains in each pint 437·5 grains of extract of opium; the P. L. wine 600 grains. The difference is 162½ grains, which is over one-fourth instead of one-fifth.