

ity of which is greater or less than that of water. We are surprised that errors of such an elementary character should be published in journals supposed to be for the instruction of pharmacists. We are inclined to think that the table has been taken from some American source, as it is approximately correct for the American weights and measures, in which the fluid ounce of water weighs 455.69 grains and the pint contains 16 fluid ounces, but is entirely incorrect when employed in connection with the weights and measures in use in this country, in which the fluid ounce of water at 60° weighs 437.5 grains and the pint contains 20 fluid ounces. Even if the table were correctly calculated for our measures it is impossible, as we have already pointed out, to convert cubic centimeters into grains, as the weight of a cubic centimeter of any fluid will be in proportion to its specific gravity. The existence of the table might be explained by supposing grains to be the same as minims, but here would be another error into which many fall.

The periodical appearance of tables such as this, which are at best only approximately correct and mere makeshifts, the use of which should not be tolerated in any well-regulated pharmacy, do great

injury to the progress of our profession. The universal adoption of the metric system is absolutely certain. The U. S. P. has adopted it and the British will follow. Even now many physicians use it, and it is impossible to follow the advance of scientific knowledge without an acquaintance with this system. Then why waste time and energy calculating by the aid of incorrect tables metric terms into the English, when for the expenditure of a few dollars one can purchase a complete set of metric weights and measures, which are as easy to handle as the old ones and much simpler to calculate percentages, etc? We think that it is the duty of every progressive pharmaceutical journal and pharmacist to decry the use of these tables which can lead only to careless habits in dispensing, where absolute accuracy is imperatively required, but impossible of attainment if this practice be persisted in. Many object to the use of the metric system in prescribing, because, they say, it is so confusing, but it is confusing only when the attempt is made to use these tables, whereas, with a set of weights and measures, it is simplicity itself, as simple as our decimal coinage is to the complex English coinage of 12 pence to the shilling and 20 shillings to the pound.

## PRESENTATION.

Upon the occasion of the eightieth birthday anniversary of Mr. Henry Lyman, the employees of Messrs. Lyman, Sons & Co. determined to mark the occasion by presenting him with a congratulatory address. Mr. Lyman, not being very strong since his serious illness last spring, the presentation took place at his residence, 74 McTavish street, a deputation numbering some fifteen, and representing every department of the business, waiting upon him about 6 o'clock in the evening. The address, which was beautifully illuminated by Messrs. Edwin Cox & Co, was read by Mr. Thos. Boyd, chief book-keeper, and the senior member of the staff, as follows:

*Mr. Henry Lyman, Messrs. Lyman, Sons & Co.:*

DEAR SIR,—On this, the eightieth anniversary of your birthday, we, the undersigned, desire to convey to you our hearty congratulations that you have attained to this mature and venerable age in the full possession of all your faculties and in the enjoyment of good health.

As the head of the respected firm of Lyman Sons & Co., with which you have been prominently connected for the past sixty-five years, your employees feel a pride in acknowledging that in all matters connected with the firm your action has been on the side of righteousness and justice, and it gives us much pleasure to give prominence to this feature of your business career.