

CANADIAN
PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL

VOL. XII, No. 6. TORONTO, JANUARY, 1879. WHOLE No. CXXVII

Original and Selected Papers.

NOTES ON THE PHARMACOPŒIA.*

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The plan of the following paper is a very simple one. It is merely a noting of ideas or hints, which have either occurred to myself or been suggested by others, on the various preparations of the Pharmacopœia. These notes are exclusively of a simple and practical character and of course are suggested as improvements. I hope it is not presumption in me to say so. I have a very great admiration of our present Pharmacopœia, believing it to be very nearly perfect. Still I think it may admit of improvement. I look on it as peculiarly the chemists' book, so that, as we may put it, all that is necessary to constitute a perfect pharmacist may be summed up in what is implied in an intelligent apprehension of its meaning and a loyal obedience to its requirements—and this view of it brings it, I think, specially within the scope of our criticism. Our body has already had assigned to it a prominent and honorable place in constructing it, and a free criticism and discussion of it by our members would seem to be eminently calculated to bring out suggestions towards its improvement. I shall therefore speak out freely and plainly, hoping thereby to provoke others to come forward with suggestions of their own or with objections to mine, in either of which cases my object will be abundantly accomplished.

Our present Pharmacopœia dates 1867. The former edition of '64 was the first B. P. and occupies a distinguished position as har-

*Reported in the Pharm. Jour. & Trans.