

cine spoon," is of this kind. Where such is used it is obvious that the patient gets but little over one-half the dose of medicine intended by the physician. In order to estimate fairly, the capacity of those teaspoons in common use, a large number comprising every ordinary style and age was procured. From these, ten spoons were selected as representatives of the lot. Each spoon was carefully filled with water, at a temperature of 60 F. In order to insure uniformity, a straight edge made of a strip of tin was passed over the liquid, sweeping off the convexity of the surface, and leaving what might be taken as the true contents. The measure of each spoon, as indicated by a minum graduate, which was previously ascertained to be correctly marked, was carefully noted, and the operation was repeated a number of times so that an average might be made. The number of minims contained by each was as follows :

55, 55, 70, 72, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 97.

From this it will be seen that the average capacity of ordinary spoons is over 77 minims, and supposing such to be used for the administration of any medicine under the assumption that it contained a fluidrachm, the quantity given would be almost one-third larger than that intended.

From conversation with one of our largest manufacturers and dealers in table ware, it was ascertained that teaspoons are made, at present, of three sizes, which may be known as large, medium, and small. Samples of each of these were procured and their contents measured with the following result :

Large teaspoon,	95	minims.
Medium	"	85
Small	"	60

The average capacity of modern spoons may, therefore, be taken at 80 minims ; which is exactly one-third more than commonly stated. Taking this into account, and also bearing in mind that there is one chance in three that a patient, by employing the largest spoon, may get over half as much more medicine than was intended, it seems necessary that the scale of approximate measurement should undergo a thorough revision.

Dessert-spoons are liable to the same objections as tea-spoons—invariably containing more than the specified quantity of liquid. A number of those in common use were examined in the manner above mentioned, the average capacity being :