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PEPSIN.*

BY CHARLES SYMES, PH.D.

There are few medicines, perhaps, which have received so extensive a trial, and yet respecting which such differences of opinion exist, as pepsin. It cannot be doubted that this arises chiefly from the fact that it has not been recognized by the Pharmacopœia, and hence no standard tests of quality exist in this country. Chemists purchase the kind they think best, influenced perhaps by the advertisements of manufacturers or the report of some experimenter who may have used very carefully prepared samples, and not the commercial article; or it might be they are guided by price, the best qualities being usually attributed to the highest priced articles of its kind, and this, indeed, should be a correct guide. But I have also heard of orders for pepsin in which the only condition stipulated for was its low price. It occasionally occurs that extremes meet, and my experience indicates that they are not so wide apart as would be supposed, even in this instance. It will not be surprising, however, under such circumstances, that pepsin might mean anything posses-

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