

CANADIAN
PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL

VOL. V, No. II.

TORONTO, JUNE, 1872.

WHOLE No. L

Original and Selected Papers.

THE PHARMACY OF THE BIBLE.*

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I use the word pharmacy in its literal and broadest, not in its conventional and narrow sense. It cannot be otherwise than interesting to gather together and pass in review the teachings of the Bible, whose history goes back four thousand years into the past ages, as to matters connected with our own daily calling. After a careful investigation of the subject, I am bound to acknowledge at the outset, that whilst on the one hand there are references to many of the diseases which have afflicted mankind in ancient times, there is very little to be learnt in the Bible as to the nature of the remedies employed, or the healing art in general. We read of physicians and of apothecaries, and of the "many medicines of the Egyptians;" and Solomon, who wrote, we are told, on natural history, seems to have included in his favorite study some knowledge of the medicinal use of various plants, etc., but the results of his study are lost to the world. The drug known as the "balm of Gilead" was supposed to have a medicinal virtue. We meet with what is a very popular remedy in the present day, prescribed by the prophet for a boil of a very serious nature, from which King Hezekiah was suffering, viz., a plaster of *figs*, which was successful in its results. We learn something of what we may call a domestic

* Read at a meeting of the Manchester Chemists' and Druggists' Association, March 8, 1872, and published in the Chemist and Druggist, April, 1872.