

*Chemical Pharmacy*, or the preparation of substances of definite chemical composition, such as salts, acids, alkaloids, etc. This branch has now passed entirely out of the hands of the practising physician and almost entirely out of those of the practising pharmacist. Secondly, *Galenical Pharmacy*, or the preparation of drugs of indefinite chemical composition, products of plant or animal life as a rule, and usually intimate mixtures of many chemical substances for administration as medicine. Galenical pharmacy has now been almost entirely abandoned by the physician and only some of the simplest procedures are now carried out by him. The practising pharmacist as a rule no longer carries out the more complex galenical procedures but purchases many of his stock of galenicals from the larger pharmaceutical houses. Thirdly, *Dispensing, Magistral Pharmacy*, or the preparing and putting up in suitable form for the patient of the drugs or their galenical preparations ordered by the physician.

"**POSOLGY**" is the branch of medical science that deals with the doses of drugs and their preparations. The knowledge of this subject is a most important one for the physician.

"**PHARMACOLOGY**" is the science that deals with the action of drugs upon the animal body. This science is often termed "**PHARMACO-DYNAMICS**"; the term "**Pharmacology**" being then used in a broader sense to include pharmacy, pharmacology, pharmacognosy, and posology. "**THERAPEUTICS**" is the art of applying the knowledge of these four sciences to the treatment of disease.

The Pharmacopœia also prescribes the systems of weights and measures, which are to be used in the operations of pharmacy. The older system which is still almost alone in use in dispensing, and in which alone the Pharmacopœia Britannica gives the official doses of the materia medica, is the **IMPERIAL SYSTEM**.

#### MEASURES OF MASS OF THE IMPERIAL SYSTEM.

	Metric-Equivalent.
1 grain abbreviated gr. ....	64.7987 mgms.
437.5 grs.—1 ounce, abbreviated Oz. or $\mathfrak{z}$ .....	28.349 gms.
7,000 grs. 16 oz. 1 pound, abbreviated lb. ....	453.59 gms.

Very commonly a weight known as a drachm (dr. or  $\mathfrak{d}$ ) equivalent to 60 grains (3.8879 gms.) is employed in prescribing and dispensing and more rarely the scruple ( $\mathfrak{s}$ ) equivalent to 20 grains. Both these weights are survivals of the Troy system of weights and it is the common practice of pharmacists in spite of the usage of the Pharmacopœia to use in dispensing the Troy ounce of 480 grains, unless there is some indication that the Imperial ounce is intended. (If the sign  $\mathfrak{z}$  be used it is customary to dispense 480 grains, while if the word ounce be written the Imperial ounce would be dispensed.)

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