

(2) **Empirical**, when our knowledge is insufficient to tell us why the remedy is efficient, *e.g.* The use of salicylates for rheumatic fever.

Therapeutics ought not to be included in the term *Materia Medica*, for that treats only of drugs; but Therapeutics, properly speaking, is concerned with all means of alleviation.

General Therapeutics is a subdivision of Therapeutics; it is the science and art of alleviating disease by such remedies as are not drugs, *e.g.* diet, climate, baths, venesection, and cupping. In this work we shall consider only that part of Therapeutics which is concerned with drugs.

A Pharmacopœia is a book published by some authorised body, generally constituted by law. This book describes most of the drugs in common use, and gives directions concerning the making of preparations from them. The pharmacopœias and the authorities publishing them differ in different countries. The **British Pharmacopœia** is published by the General Medical Council. The last edition appeared in 1914. As new drugs are discovered they are, if of sufficient use, included in new editions of the Pharmacopœia. Everything contained in the Pharmacopœia is said to be "official." The abbreviation for "British Pharmacopœia" is "**B. P.**"

The Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain have published a valuable book, "**The British Pharmaceutical Codex**," containing many preparations not in the "**British Pharmacopœia**." Some are mentioned in this book. When prescribed, **B. P. C.** should be put in a bracket after them.

MATERIA MEDICA PROPER.

As much of this as the student need know will be mentioned under each drug.