

the standard of education; and the large number of earnest and scientific workers, who, during the last ten years, have entered the field, have had the effect of rendering the progress of pharmacy unprecedentedly rapid. In regard to the introduction of new remedies and improvements in the manner of preparation of those which were officinal, the advancement made has been very marked, and as a result, the additions to the Pharmacopœia are numerous and important. We shall detail, as concisely as possible, the principal features by which the edition of 1870, is distinguished from its predecessors.

The first improvement which meets the eye relates to the nomenclature of definite chemical compounds. It will be remembered that, in 1871, Professor Atfield, of Great Britain, read a paper before the Pharmaceutical Society, in which he advocated the alteration of the names of chemical compounds so as to accord with the more modern views held by the majority of chemists of the present day. A list of the necessary changes was given and this has formed the basis upon which the compilers of the Pharmacopœia have founded the nomenclature which has been adopted. The old notions regarding the constitution of salts are now well-nigh exploded, and even were this not the case, the old names lack uniformity. Many a tyro in chemistry has puzzled his brains to find out the reason why substances of similar composition should be designated by names having different significations: for instance, why sulphate of soda should be the sulphate of an oxide, and sulphate of iron, which is of similar composition, should be termed the sulphate of a metal. These difficulties will no longer recur under the present system. Thus, nitrate of ammonia becomes nitrate of ammonium; bicarbonate of soda, bicarbonate of sodium, &c. The termination of the Latin name undergoes a corresponding change, as sodii instead of sodæ.

The systems of weights and measurement remain as they were, and though it would have been desirable that the metrical system, or even the plan of proportional weights, had been adopted, the committee of revision, found that the amount of time at their disposal would not allow of their making changes of such magnitude.

The division of articles of materia medica into *primary* and *secondary* lists is still retained, as also that of the *preparations*. From the *primary* list one article—*Ol. Bubulum*—has been dismissed, while *Gelsemium*, *Hydrastis*; and *Ruta*; have been transferred to it from the *secondary* list; as also *Acid. Valerianic* and *Zinci Valerianas*, from the former *preparations*. In addition to these, twenty-four new articles have been admitted, these are:

*Acidum Carbolicum*; *Acid. Carbol. Impurum*; *Acidum Oxalicum*; *Ammonii Nitras*; *Calcii Hypophosphis*; *Cannabis Americana*; *Cannabis Indica*; *Cerii Oxalas*; *Chloral*; *Cinchona*; *Conii Fructus*; *Cuprum*; *Ferri Hypophosphis*; *Gossypii Radicis Cortex*; *Iodoformum*; *Origanum*; *Physostigma*; *Potassii Hypophosphis*; *Potassii*