

to, and also from a large number of trials made by the writer, the conditions which affect the formation and size of drops may be shortly summed up as follows: (1) the kind of liquid; (2) its temperature; (3) the size and shape of the edge or lip of the vessel; (3) its chemical cleanliness; (4) the inclination of the vessel; (5) the superincumbent pressure of liquid.

It will be acknowledged that to attend to all the above conditions regarding the measurement of a drop would be both difficult and absurd, and it may be urged that, after all, a drop is only an approximate quantity, representing a fixed measure near enough for practical purposes; that druggists and others are already well aware that drops and minims do not always correspond, but that the value of the drops of each kind of liquid, subject to this mode of measurement, is laid down by various authorities, and well understood. The instance of tincture of opium, which is said to furnish 120 drops to the drachm, may be cited. To show the incorrectness of this, and also to demonstrate the absurdity of the whole system, the record of a few experiments may be given. The number of minims represented by one fluid drachm of laudanum when dropped from various vessels, was as follows:

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| 1 drachm measure..... | 130 minims. |
| 4 oz. bottle, with deep, round lip..... | 50 " |
| ½ gal. bottle | 76 " |
| 1 quart stoppered shop bottle..... | 90 " |
| " " 2nd trial | 100 " |
| Experiments of E. Durand..... | 120 " |
| " " Mr. Shuttleworth, England... | 134 " |
| " " Mr. Alsop, " | 135 " |
| " " " (large bot) | 84 " |

As the size of teaspoons is controlled by the demands of fashion, a considerable variation may be expected in spoons of different ages. As a general rule, however, they are made much larger than formerly and appear to have steadily increased in size from the teaspoon of the last century, which was not much over one-third that of the present day. About a hundred years ago the average capacity was about 37 minims. At that time, and indeed until the present century, teaspoons were generally made of silver. It may be that from their superior value they have been more carefully preserved than those of other at metal; all events, there are many families who possess some of these relics, and in not a few instances, "the medi-