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## Original and Selected Papers.

### ON SOME ERRORS IN THE STATED STRENGTHS AND DOSES OF THE OFFICIAL PREPARATIONS OF OPIUM.

BY E. B. SHUTTLEWORTH.

Teachers of pharmacy, and others accustomed to classify and compare the various officinal compounds, must have noticed occasional discrepancies and inconsistencies in pharmacopœial statements which are difficult to explain away and which give rise to much uncertainty and confusion in the mind of the student. To direct attention to some of these is the design of the present paper, and the writer is encouraged to believe that this criticism will be received in as kindly a feeling as it is offered. To call into question the correctness of the national pharmaceutical standard was at one time deemed an evidence of bad taste, but that time has happily passed away, and it is now the interest of all to cultivate and exercise a spirit of inquiry, so that our Pharmacopœia may be rendered as nearly perfect as possible.

In the edition of 1867, on page 230, under the head of *Opium*, is an enumeration of the officinal preparations of that drug, and also an estimate of their relative strengths. In this table there are some omissions and errors.