

those cases in which distillation is employed in producing the special preparation is "good natural potable water" directed to be employed. The name proof spirits has been abandoned. Careful enquiry as to the best menstruum for extracting the active principles of drugs, has led to the adoption of ethylic alcohol in five several degrees of dilution, containing respectively, 90 per cent., 70 per cent., 60 per cent., 45 per cent., 20 per cent. of alcohol. The 90 per cent. alcohol is called *spiritus rectificatus* in Latin, and has the synonym in English of rectified spirit. Its purity and strength are well defined.

Referring now to the various official forms of preparations in order, we note that no changes of importance have taken place in the list of acids or vinegars, one acid only, the dilute lactic, has been omitted.

Among the *aque*, we notice that chloroform water is now only half the strength it was previously; other waters are little changed.

Three of the plasters have disappeared, namely the plaster of iron, galbanum and brown soap. They will not be missed.

The word essence now disappears from the Pharmacopœia, being regarded as savouring of old-time medicine. All solutions of the essential oils in alcohol are now termed spirits, but the strength of these solutions is increased in nearly every instance; it is now 1 in 10 instead of 1 in 50 as previously.

Of the confections four have disappeared, namely, those of opium, hips, scammony and turpentine. The confections of senna, sulphur, pepper, and roses are retained with comparatively little alteration.

Many extracts have been omitted; of these the most important are:

Extractum Aconite	Extractum Hamatoxyli
Extractum Aloes Socotrine	Extractum Jaborandi
Extractum Calumbæ	Extractum Lactucæ
Extractum Colchici Aceticum	Extractum Lupuli
Extractum Conii	Extractum Quassiae
Extractum Gelsemii Alcoholicum	

The strength of the alcoholic extract of belladonna has been reduced to one-third of its previous strength, bringing the dose down to that of the green extract. One wonders why the latter has been retained, as it is the only preparation of belladonna, with the exception of the succus not standardised. In reference to the acetic extract of colchicum, Dr. Leech says: "The acetic extract of colchicum was introduced on the supposition that acetic acid dissolves the active principles of the drug more readily than water. This is not so. The ordinary extract is a perfectly efficient preparation." Ergotin is now to be known as the extract of ergot. This is wise. The sooner the name ergotin is dropped by the profession the better. It is only confusing. One new extract appears, the extract of *strophanthus*.