

# Canadian Druggist

Devoted to the interests of the General Drug Trade and to the Advancement of Pharmacy.

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## Canadian Druggist

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### Exactitude in Compounding.

The average Canadian druggist buys American bottles, graduates, etc., and uses them without considering for a moment that they do not comply with the requirements of the Imperial system which ought to be his guide. In filling physicians' prescriptions strict exactness should be observed, yet the druggist in Canada who fills an eight-ounce bottle, American make, when an eight-ounce mixture is called for, does not dispense the doses prescribed, as his mixture is weaker than it was intended to be. The variation in measures was quite forcibly brought to the attention of the writer by the experience of an American photographer, visiting Toronto, who destroyed several valuable solutions by using Imperial measures in attempting to compound his formulas without thinking of the difference in strength resulting.

The following comparison of fluid measures shows at a glance the difference:

	Apothecaries' Measure, U. S.		Imperial Measure British.			
	Gal.	Pts.	Pints.	Fl. Ozs.	Fl. Drs.	Mins.
1 gallon =	1	1	6	13	2	23
1 pint =				16	5	18
1 ounce =				1	0	20
1 drachm =					1	2.5
1 minim =						1 04
		Imperial Measure, British.		Apothecaries' Measure, U. S.		
	Gal.	Pts.	Ozs.	Drs.	Mins.	
1 gallon =	1	1	9	5	8	
1 pint =			3	1	38	
1 ounce =				7	41	
1 drachm =					58	
1 minim =					96	

An eight-ounce mixture U. S. measure would therefore contain 160 minims or nearly 3 fluid drachms more than the British and the doses would be about 4 per cent. weaker than was intended.

If there is any science in pharmacy the duty of its votaries should be to make it as nearly exact as possible. When the

physician prescribes 25 grains of a substance for each dose he doesn't desire the compounder to dispense 24. Yet the careless measuring of fluids may bring just such a result. The practice referred to is so common in Canada that we feel justified in drawing the attention of the trade to it as we do not think that Canadian dispensers have any desire to be less particular than those of any other country and we feel satisfied that commerce and custom are more to blame than anything else.

### Advice to the Business Beginner.

Taking it for granted that you understand thoroughly the character of the business upon which you are entering, and that general rather than specific hints will aid you, the following is tendered for your thoughtful consideration.

In buying, deal only with those of established reputation for business integrity and of good circumstances. They have too much depending on their business conduct to be induced to do you a wrong. Their circumstances will enable them to give you better bargains and to deal more leniently with you in matters of credit, and their advice and support may enable you to pull through the preliminary difficulties which all beginners have to contend with.

Be cautious in starting. Your ideas beforehand will change with your experience afterwards. The old adage of "Creep before you walk" is an apt one in its application to the business man. If obliged to give security in the form of notes, arrange to so divide them that they will not mature in such a way as to put you in the power of the holder should he seek to use it. Recollect you cannot blame others for looking after their interests if you fail to look after your own.

There are two reasons why the public will deal with you—their convenience and their confidence—therefore cater to their