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Original and Selected Papers.

ON ACETUM SCILLÆ, B.P.

BY E. GREGORY.

About a year since, taking up in an idle moment, an old copy of the *London Pharmaceutical Journal*, I read in answer to an inquiring correspondent, a recommendation to prepare Acetum Scillæ according to the formula of the British Pharmacopœia, "carefully avoiding, however, the directions to add one and a half fluid ounces of proof spirit at the end of the process." On theoretical grounds I had long omitted the spirit, but the strangeness of this advice, proceeding from such a source, determined me to open the whole question, and endeavor to satisfy myself by experiment that I had taken a correct view. Accordingly on the 4th of Nov., 1874, four samples of Acet. Scillæ were put into separate four ounce vials, and tightly corked.

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| No. 1 | same as B. P., | but no spirit. |
| " 2 | " | but contained spirit. |
| " 3 | " | no spirit. |
| " 4 | " | contained spirit. |

Nos. 1 and 2 were placed on the inside sill of a window with a western aspect. These were exposed during the winter to a temperature of from about 28° to 65°, and in summer, the direct rays of an afternoon sun would sometimes raise the atmosphere around them