The liquid which results has a green appearance, and may be at once employed for marking linen, since it invariably becomes black after a few days. A steel pen may be employed as well as a quill. If it is desirable not to wait so long for the appearance of the black color, a hot iron may be passed over the writing when the ink is dry, or the linen held over the flame of a spirit lamp, or over a hot plate, or hot water, when the black tint will readily appear.

It is a good plan to put the linen when marked into a tepid solution of soap, which has the effect of bringing out a fine bluish tint. The ink must be so limpid that it is able to permeate the tissue of the linen, so that the marks appear on both sides.

It is advisable to mix the solutions together, only when the ir' has to be made use of.

The ink is perfectly indelible, and so easy to write with that the finest devices may be drawn with it.

A very cheap brown marking ink may be prepared from binoxide of manganese, as follows: 4 pts. acetate of manganese dissolved in 12 pts. of water.

The place on the linen where the marks have to be made, must be previously moistened with the following solution: 1 pt. yellow prussiate of potash, ½ pt. gum-arabic, 3 pts. water. The linen having been saturated with the above solution, is then dried, and afterwards marked with the manganese solution. On the letters becoming dry, the following solution is spread over the spot with a pencil: 4 pts. carbonate of potash, 10 pts. water. The letters then become brown, and their color cannot be removed by alkalies, nor by acids, with the exception of dilute hydrochloric acid.

A purple marking ink can be prepared by employing bichloride of platinum. 1 pt. bichloride of platinum, 16 pts. distilled water.

The place where the letters have to be written, must be moistened with a solution of 3 pts. carbonate of soda, 3pts. gum.arabic, 12 pts. water. The spot is then dried and made smooth. After the letters have been written with the platinum ink and become dry, the linen is moistened with a solution of 1 pt. chloride of tin, 4 pts distilled water, when an intense and beautiful purple red makes its appearance.

CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT, - - - WM. ELLIOT, ESQ.

The regular meetings of the Society take place on the first Wednesday evening of each month, at the Mechanics' Institute, when, after the transaction of business, there is a paper read, or discussion engaged in, upon subjects of interest and value to the members.

The Society admits as members, Chemists and Druggists of good standing, and their assistants and apprentices, if elected by a majority vote, and on payment of the following fees:

Principals - - - - - $4 00 per Annum
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The JOURNAL *is furnished* FREE *to all members.*

Parties wishing to join the Society may send their names for proposal to any of the members of the Society. A copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society will be furnished on application.

HENRY J. ROSE, *Secretary.*

THE CANADIAN
Pharmaceutical Journal.
E. B. SHUTTLEWORTH, EDITOR.

TORONTO, ONT., SEPTEMBER, 1869

Correspondence and general communications, of a character suited to the objects of this JOURNAL, are invited, and will always be welcome. The writer's name should accompany his communication, but not necessarily for publication.

Subscriptions will not be acknowledged by letter, as our sending the paper may be taken as sufficient evidence of the receipt of the money.

All communications connected with the paper to be addressed, post-paid,

"EDITOR CANADIAN PHARMACEUTICAL JOURNAL, TORONTO."

INTRODUCTION OF THE METRICAL SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INTO PHARMACY.

Our readers have been already apprised of the discussion which has taken place, amongst English pharmacists, relative to the adoption of the metrical system of weights and measures, in pharmacy. No decisive step has yet been taken, but there seems to be an evident wish, on the part of the more intelligent class of druggists, to press the matter to an issue. It will readily be seen that a great deal of opposition will have to be overcome, owing to the strong conservatism of the English people. The old troy grain, however unscientific its derivation, and the ounce and pound, though lacking in harmony, retain a hold on the public mind which it will be difficult to supplant. The revolutionizing of a system of weights and measures, is, in every country, an operation of no small magnitude, implying, for a time, an inestimable amount of inconvenience and perplexity. Practical men are very apt to question the propriety of incurring this trouble, and are slow to recognize advantages purchased at so great a cost, especially if the system in use gives tolerable satisfaction. One of our cotemporaries goes so far as to say that the lives of Her Majesty's subjects would be materially shortened by the introduction of the metrical system, from the great amount of annoyance incident thereto. We have no fear on this score, and think that Her Majesty's lieges would be none the worse of the requsite brightening up. Of a general revolution, however, including all classes, we fear there is little hopes for many years to come. When we hear a true-born Britisher demanding his quantum of the national beverage, by asking for "five decilitres of 'arf-and-'arf," we shall be prepared to receive or believe anything.

In regard to pharmacy, the case is entirely different. The pharmacist is, or should be, an educated man, free from the prejudices which characterize the common mass, and to whom the acquirement of a new system would be an easy and pleasing task—easy, in this case, from the beautiful simplicity and harmony which characterize it—pleasing, from the conviction that a step is being taken which promises to be of permanent advantage, and which adds to the general advancement of knowledge.

The want of a satisfactory and rational system of weights and measures has long been felt in pharmacy. Witness the frequent vacillations between troy and avoirdupois—wine and imperial; all of which, have, in turn, proved unsatisfactory; the only result being a Babelistic confusion of quantities, truly perplexing. Do we wish to make a preparation from a former pharmacoœia, it becomes necessary to know the value of the quantities at the time—the ounce of to-day is not that of a few years ago, and drachms and scruples, are heard of no more.

It has been asserted that the decimal system is not perfect; that it is not as convenient as an octavial one; that the standard taken does not admit of more ready verification than with others. These are, no doubt, valid objections, but when taken with the fact that it has been tried and recommended by the greater part of the scientific men of the day, and that the civilized nations of the earth have either adopted it, or are contemplating doing so—these objections are of small weight.

The decimal system of coinage has been found of great utility, and no nation which has adopted it would now think of its abandonment. For our own part, and we know we speak the sentiments of the people of Canada, and the United States, we should be very loth to return to the days of pounds, shillings, and pence—not to mention farthings, and sundry other nondescript and various denominations. The increased facilities for keeping accounts which the new system possesses, has effected a saving of time, which, in large establishments is pecuniarily perceptable. The introduction of the metrical system of weights would be of still greater service to druggists, who, as a class, are unfortunately seldom troubled with the contemplation of large figures in their ledgers, and whose weekly profits can often be computed by the aid of a little digital enumeration.

The great difficulty in the way of the introduction of the new system appears to be the apparent trouble of associating a just idea of quantity with the new weights. Numerous expedients have been suggested; such as the making of coins to represent certain weights; the cutting of postage stamps of a size, indicative of a certain measurement. These would prove material helps, by bringing the