

topics as have been presented at our evening meetings, good has invariably resulted.

During the past year pharmaceutical research has, it is to be regretted, flagged considerably; it can hardly have been caused by the announcement that the Supplement or Appendix to the British Pharmacopœia was to be published at an early date, for one would have imagined an announcement from Professor Redwood that such a publication might be expected, would have stimulated pharmacists to have brought forward all matters that deserved the attention of the Pharmacopœia Committee.

To those who have worked to amend the errors of the 1867 edition, as well as to those who have bestowed thought and labor upon the preparations now added to our national pharmacopœia, our thanks are due.

As you well know, after some considerable delay, the addendum has made its appearance, and it has the good fortune to be associated with a volume of which pharmacists are justly proud, and with which the medical profession is evidently satisfied, as was shown by the *Lancet* in a recent article upon the British Pharmacopœia, the closing paragraph of which might be here reproduced with advantage:—

“It will be seen that there is at least a promise of some valuable matter in these additions to our national Pharmacopœia, and if the practical knowledge and judgment displayed in preparing the previously published part of the work have been equally exercised in this, the profession will be indebted to the Medical Council and the Pharmacopœia Committee for their labors in this direction.”—(*Lancet*, March 21, 1874.)

My object in addressing you this evening is not so much to bring my preparations (placed upon the table) specially under your notice, but rather to have them before us as illustrative of the 34 new remedies and substances used in the preparations of medicine contained in the supplement, while we discuss their relative merits.

I must acknowledge that I have had no special experience of many of the matters before us other than that I have gained, by way of experimenting, during the past few days; I ask, therefore, your indulgence for any errors of judgment that I may commit, in my haste to bring so important a matter before you.

Let us in this discussion be mindful of the fact that the compilation of a work is a much more difficult task than a criticism; also, on the other hand, that criticism fairly carried on must, in the end, be to the benefit of those criticised.

Let us turn, then, to the Supplement, and take the preparations *seriatim*.

*Acetic Ether*.—This body, although not new to the chemist, is a body with which pharmacists are but little familiar. All will remember the characteristic and pleasant odour so often noticed in