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ON THE APPROXIMATE MEASUREMENT OF LIQUIDS  
AS APPLIED TO MEDICINE.

BY E. B. SHUTTLEWORTH.

The employment of articles in domestic use for apportioning doses of medicine is almost universal. An examination of a file representing the prescriptions of a large number of our physicians, revealed the fact, that of every hundred prescriptions, in which liquids were to be dispensed, sixty-two were ordered in tea-spoonful doses, twenty-eight in table-spoonfuls, nine in dessert-spoonfuls, and the remaining dose in that of a wine-glassful. The convenience of this system outweighs all considerations which might be urged against it; it appears strange, however, and not a little inconsistent, that in the dispensing of medicine such care and nicety should be required, while its administration is allowed to be performed in a manner which, at best, can only approximate to correctness.

The older works on pharmacy, as well as those of recent date, give, under the title "approximate measurement," a table of the quantities of liquid which are supposed to correspond, as nearly as possible, with these common measures: thus we learn that: