The Syrup of White Poppies is not made from poppy-heads at all, but contains, instead, a small proportion of extract of opium (gr. 1-4th in an ounce of the syrup). The Medicinal Prussic Acid of the *Codex* contains 10 per cent. of anhydrous acid, and is, therefore, five times as strong as our own. Tincture of Aconite is made from the leaves, not the root, of the aconite, and is so much weaker than our own, that the Syrup of Aconite contains one-tenth of its weight of the Tincture; and the *Codex* states that the dose is a tablespoonful, which corresponds, therefore, with above twenty minims of the Tincture.

Syrup of Rhubarb (compound) contains chicory, fumitory and harts-tongue, alkongeni, cinnamon, and sandal wood; and is, therefore, a very different compound from what is commonly prepared in this country; and Confection of Senna contains barley, polypody, harts-tongue, mercurialis, and jujubes, in addition to the ingredients present in our own. Lastly, all the preparations of Cinchona are styled preparations of Quinquina in the *Codex*; so that *Syrup de Quinquina* and *Tincture de Quinquina* mean Syrup and Tincture of the Bark, not Solutions of the Alkaloid Quinine in Syrup and in Spirit. The favourite English prescription of Tincture of Quinine, if written simply Tinct. Quin., is, therefore, almost certain to be wrongly dispensed in Paris, as the *Codex* contains no tincture of the alkaloid itself.

In summing up our impressions as a prescriber of the work now issued to rule French pharmacy for some years to come, we cannot too strongly regret the inexplicable want of arrangement, which renders it most difficult for reference; and its unnecessary size, which is a serious obstacle to its employment. The great preponderance of the vegetable over the mineral materia medica commends itself to our judgment, which inclines more and more in this direction with increasing experience; and the dilute condition of many of the preparations—the Tisanes, the Apozems, and the Syrups—is also beneficial to the patient; as a small dose of a medicine in a liquid form acts more mildly and efficiently when well diluted, than when given in too concentrated a state. The tendency of British practice has long been to obtain active principles and compact forms of medication; but it is doubtful whether our neighbours do not show their practical wisdom by retaining the small dose and the copious dilution, as illustrated by this work.

The excessive multiplication of remedies of the same general character renders it impossible to carry them all in the memory; but each practitioner will make his own selection for use, and dismiss nine-tenths of the materia medica from his thoughts.

The elegance shown in many of the preparations might advantageously be introduced more generally amongst ourselves, especially by enlarging the list of our syrups, and by the more frequent employment of benzoated lard in our ointments.

The multiplicity of ingredients in the compound formulæ is a greater objection to the pharmacist than to the prescriber; for, although such preparations as *Baume Tranquille*, with its score of ingredients, and *Theriaca*, with its three score, find no place in our regard, there are others which combine numerous diuretics, laxatives, or carminatives, with which we can find no real fault, except the trouble of preparing them, and the bulky vessels requisite for the operation. But, upon the whole, we lay down the work with a feeling of relief, and with little desire to see its principal features reproduced in our own *Pharmacopœia*.

THE GAS-CAUTERY OF NELATON.

By HOLMES COOTE, Esq., F.R.C.S.,

Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

I BEG leave to call attention to the advantages gained by the use of the gas-cautery in the treatment of cancerous ulcerations of the skin. These cancerous deposits, which commence in the form of soft warts, soon pass into the ulcerative stage, when they spread slowly, attended with great pain, until they involve the neighbouring structures. The face is a very common situation, where the evils attendant on the progress are much aggravated by the fact that the features become involved, and deformity ensues. All surgeons have met with cases in which, from a variety of causes, the use of the knife is inadmissible.

The gas-cautery possesses these advantages: it chars the surfaces acted on to any amount, and the pain soon subsides when the flame is removed; unlike the action of the Vienna paste, the chloride of zinc, etc., the action is very speedy, and seems to exert a marked influence in arresting the progress of the cancerous ulceration; the destruction of the cancerous surface is followed, after each application, by a most marked contraction and diminution of size, and this contraction seems the first stage towards recovery.

The use of the gas-flame is best where a general and powerful effect is required. Mr. Bruce's platinum point is useful where a limited and delicate application of the cautery is indicated, such as in operations about the eyelids.

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH, 1867.

THE DUBLIN MEETING.

DUBLIN has been fairly taken by storm, and has given itself up with the most hearty hospitality to its invited invaders. The colleges, halls, and museums of the fair city receive with open doors the busy army of English and Scottish friends. They are received into the homes of their Dublin brethren, and welcomed with the most earnest and kindly attentions which cordial hospitality can devise and cultivated and delicate courtesy can suggest. The most satisfactory arrangements having been made for the prosecution of the business, the scientific work of the session was begun at once in right earnest, and is carried on in three sections.

The highly honoured President of the Association, Dr. Stokes, struck at once a key-note of elevated tone, to which the assembled members gave a hearty response. He rightly interpreted the feeling of satisfaction with which the visit to Dublin is regarded by the profession, both in Ireland and England. We desire to have the fellowship of our professional brethren in Ireland in our scientific work, in our educational progress, in our acts of public policy, and in our discussion of professional ethics; and they reciprocate the wish. Bound to them by the ties of a common profession and a joint nationality, having the same scientific pursuits, the same social and moral aspirations and high interests, which can be advanced best by joint action, we welcome into the bonds of association with us in the great work which we have at heart, the large body of our Irish brethren who have now joined our ranks. How far this accession to our numbers may be permanent, time only can show. There need be no illusion on this subject. Of the three hundred Irish members who have joined us, a certain proportion are influenced by feelings of pure hospitality and friendship, and probably have not yet formed the resolution permanently to associate themselves in the work. We trust, however, that familiarity with the scientific energy and moral and social earnestness of the Association, as shown by the members in the pages of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, and the opportunities which they will have during the year, through these columns, of exchanging opinions, knowledge, and suggestions, of affecting professional opinion throughout Great Britain, and of receiving its reflex influence, will bind them firmly to us in that real and natural union which gives irresistible strength.

The further proceedings of the Association during the week will be reported in our next issue; and meantime we may congratulate the members that the present position of the Association is one of unprecedented prosperity and power; that we are all fully agreed that that power shall be used only for the highest purposes; and that the present meeting presents all the most desirable of the multifarious aspects of the Society in their most agreeable and satisfactory aspects.

YELLOW FEVER is making sad havoc in Indianola, Texas, and all commerce with the port has been suspended. There is not a house in the town without its case of yellow fever. In the far West, at Forts Harker and Hayes, cholera is exterminating soldiers and settlers. In the first named fort, 50 cases with 17 deaths have occurred in one day. In Arkansas cholera is killing off swarms of the negroes: one planter has lost 25 labourers in a single week.