

**THE ADOPTION OF THE
METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS
AND MEASURES BY THE U. S.
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE**

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The adoption of the metric system of weights and measures by the U. S. Marine-hospital service
by Various

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VARIOUS

**THE ADOPTION OF THE
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AND MEASURES BY THE U. S.
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE**

144216
U. S. Public Health Service

THE ADOPTION

OF THE

Metric System of Weights and Measures

14428
BY THE

U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE

FOR

PURVEYING MEDICINES, AND FOR OTHER
OFFICIAL MEDICAL PURPOSES;

TOGETHER WITH

Rules for converting terms of the U. S. Apothecaries' Weights and Measures into their respective equivalents in terms of the Metric System; and Suggestions for writing Metric Medical Prescriptions, etc.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1878.



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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Office of the Supervising Surgeon-General,
Washington, D. C., April 27, 1878.

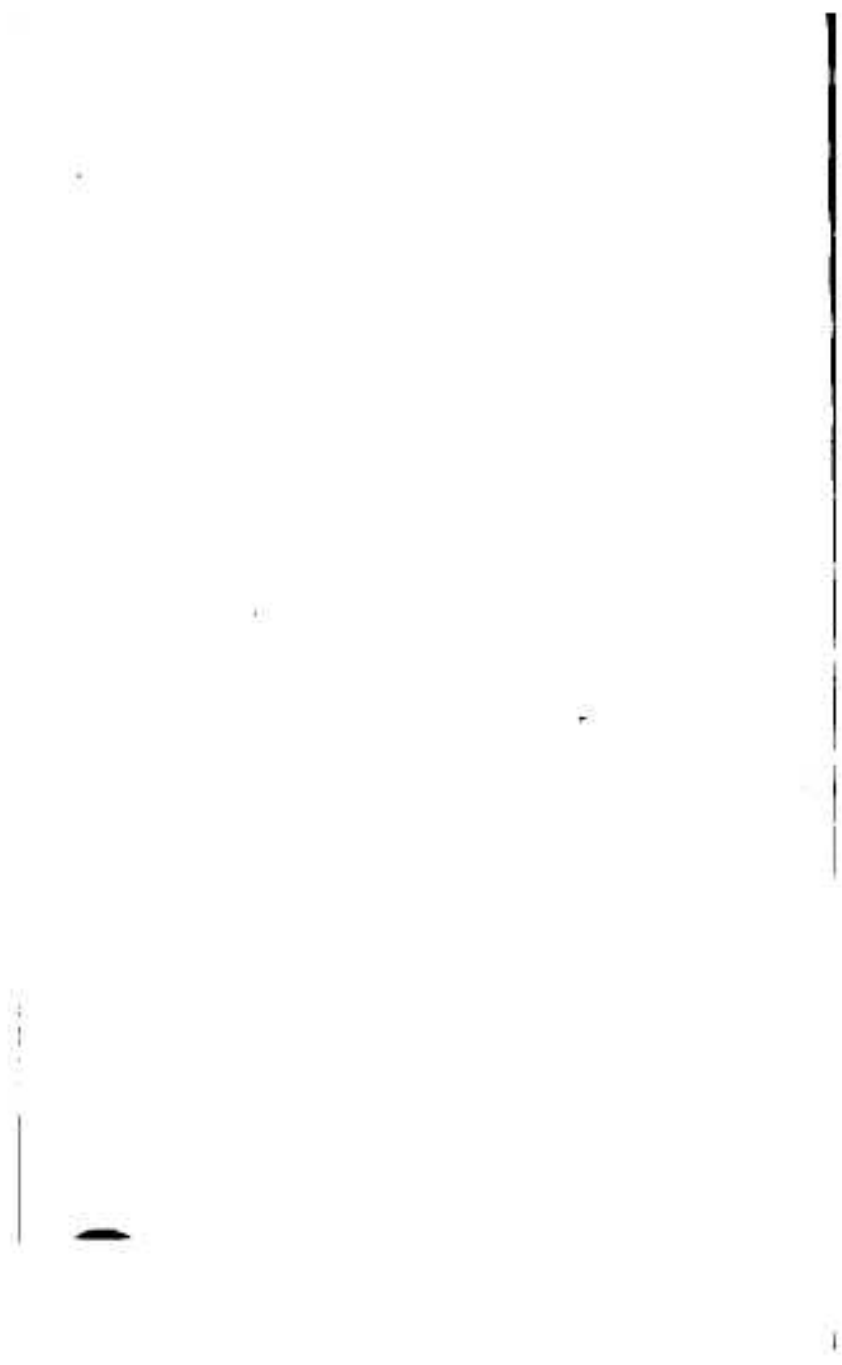
Medical officers of the Marine-Hospital Service will hereafter, for all official medical and pharmacaal purposes, make use of the Metric System of Weights and Measures. In expressing quantities by weight, the terms "gramme" and "centigramme" only will be used; and in expressing quantities by measure, the term "cubic centimetre." The Metric System has already, under the act of July 28, 1866, been adopted by this Service for the purveying of medical supplies, and the weights and graduated measures, as well as the glass-ware, hereafter furnished the medical officers, will be in accordance therewith.

Simple rules for the ready conversion of terms of the United States Apothecaries' Weights and Measures into their respective equivalents in metric terms are appended, which, for all medical and pharmacaal purposes, are believed to afford sufficiently accurate results. Suggestions are also given as to the mode in which metric medical prescriptions might be constructed, and in relation to the preparation of requisitions for medical supplies in metric terms.

JNO. M. WOODWORTH,
Surgeon-General U. S. M.-H. S.

Approved:

JOHN SHERMAN, *Secretary of the Treasury.*



R U L E S

FOR

CONVERTING APOTHECARIES' WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INTO THEIR RESPECTIVE EQUIVALENTS IN METRIC TERMS FOR MEDICAL AND PHARMACAL PURPOSES,

AND

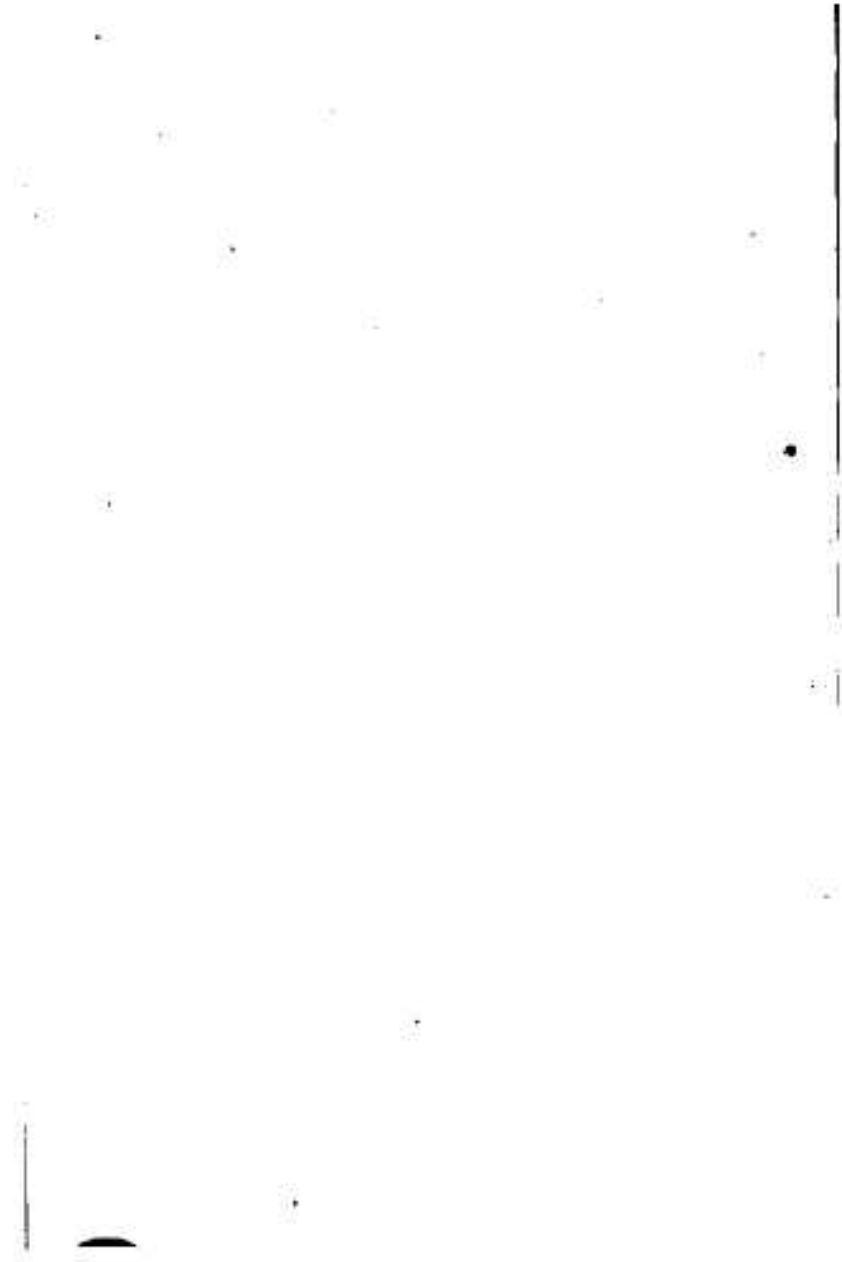
SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING METRIC PRESCRIPTIONS, AND FOR PREPARING REQUISITIONS FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN METRIC TERMS;

TOGETHER WITH A

METRIC POSOLOGICAL TABLE.

By OSCAR OLDBERG, Phar. D.,
*Chief Clerk and Acting Medical Purveyor, United States
Marine-Hospital Service.*

Reprint from the Annual Report of the Surgeon-General, 1877.



RULES.

1. TO EXPRESS QUANTITIES BY WEIGHT OF THE APOTHECARIES' SYSTEM IN METRIC TERMS, OR TO WRITE MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS IN METRIC WEIGHTS.

RULE A.—*Reduce each quantity to grains; then divide the number by 10, (or move the decimal point one place to the left,) and from the quotient subtract one-third.* The remainder is in each case the number of grammes representing (nearly) the same quantity.
Or,

RULE B.—*Reduce each quantity to drachms, and multiply the number by 4.* The product is in each case the number of grammes representing (nearly) the same quantity, Or,

RULE C.—*Reduce each quantity to ounces, and multiply the number by 32.* The product is in each case the number of grammes representing (nearly) the same quantity.

One gramme is equal to 15.43234874 troy grains.—*(Professor Miller.)* In preparing the above rules the fraction has been ignored, as for medical and pharmaceutical purposes 1 gramme and 15 troy grains may be safely considered as equal quantities. In Rule A, therefore, a division by 15 may, if preferred, be substituted for the division by 10 followed by a subtraction of one-third from the quotient, with the same result. The difference between 15 and 15.43234874 is 2.892 + per cent., and hence the devia-