

**A MANUAL OF PRESCRIPTION WRITING: WITH A
FULL EXPLANATION OF THE METHODS OF
CORRECTLY WRITING WRITING PRESCRIPTIONS,
A TABLE OF DOSES EXPRESSED IN BOTH THE
APOTHECARIES' AND METRIC SYSTEMS; RULES
FOR AVOIDING INCOMPATIBILITIES AND FOR
COMBINING MEDICINES**

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MATTHEW D. MANN

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1878.

PREFACE.

THAT more careful teaching in the matter of prescription writing is necessary, the records of every drug store will most conclusively show. Our medical schools almost entirely neglect this part of medical education, so that the student is left either to pick up for himself, or to get from his Preceptor—he himself having been imperfectly instructed—a knowledge of one of the most important of the minor departments of medicine. Perhaps one reason for this neglect is to be found in the absence of a proper text-book. Various attempts have been made to supply this want, both in this country and abroad. The now classical work of Pereira has, until a recent date, occupied the field alone. But its imperfections are so great, and the amount of useless material contained in it so large, that others have been stimulated

to supply something simpler and more suitable for the student. Griffiths has done this for English students: but the differences between the Pharmacopœias of the two countries, the different methods adopted in prescription writing, as well as the different weights and measures employed, make his book next to useless for American students.

The work of Gerrish is most complete and useful as far as it goes, but is too limited in its scope.

In these pages an effort has been made to supply what, in the experience of the writer, has been found to be most required. In the preparation of such a work there is, of course, little chance for originality of thought; a careful collection and arrangement of what has been said before being about all that could be done. I have drawn, therefore, freely from the works of others, especially from the three mentioned, and hope that the selection will prove advantageous to the student and convenient to the teacher.

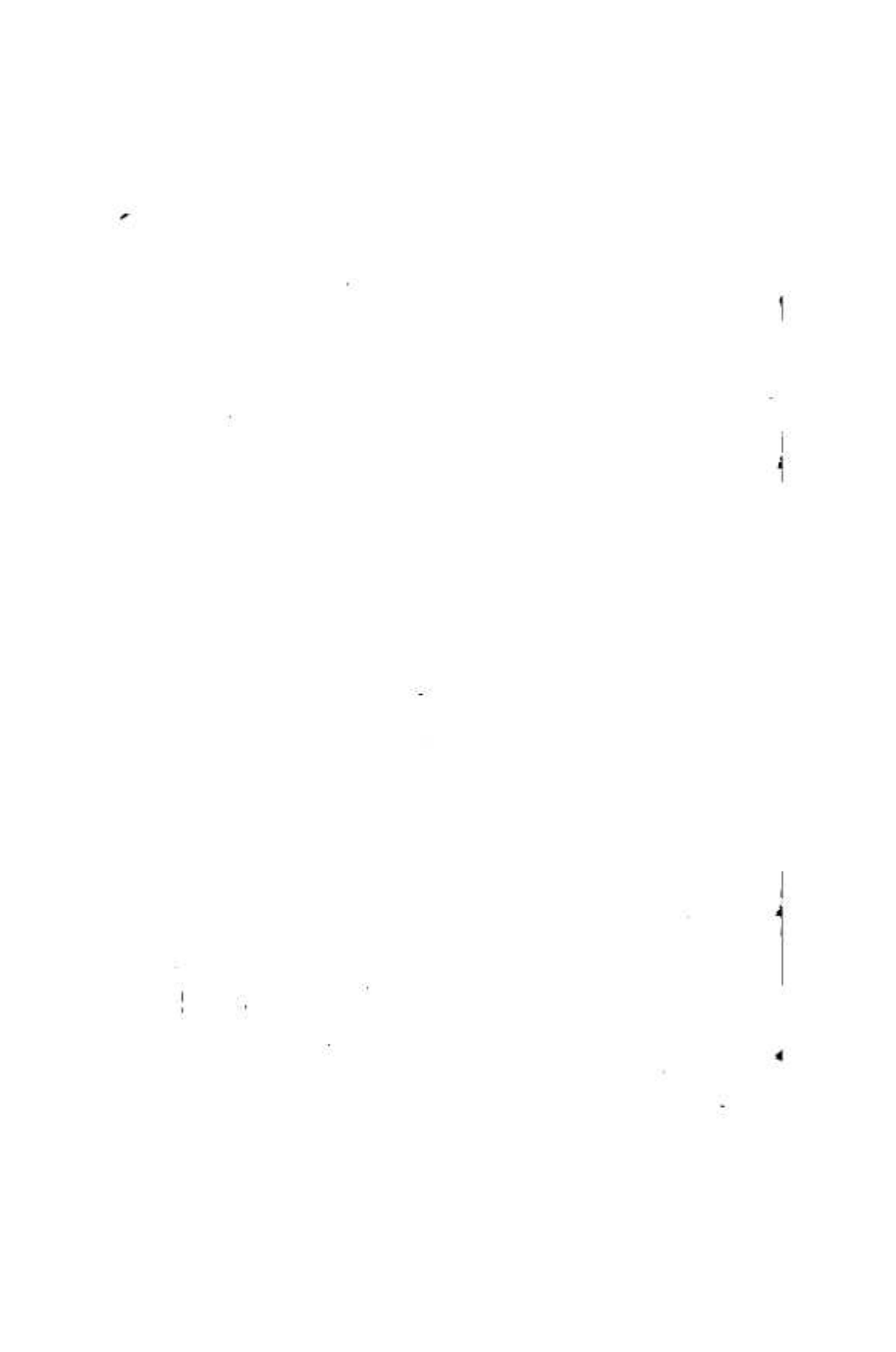
If the elaboration of details seem at times unnecessary, I must beg the critic to remember that it is done for the benefit of those who are at the very threshold, and to whom the whole subject is one of perplexity and mystery.

The introduction of a chapter on the Metric System supplies a deficiency very much felt, and is certainly demanded by the times. The method of writing this system here given is that employed on the continent of Europe and elsewhere. Whether the exclusive use of the Gravimetric method is the best and most desirable is perhaps open to question ; still it is the method generally employed, and is therefore the one here taught.

The arrangement of the drugs in the posological tables will commend itself to most, while the giving of the dose in metric terms will certainly greatly enhance its value. Perhaps the greatest difficulty met with was the determination of the proper doses. To this great care has been given ; but at best the result must be very unsatisfactory, for reasons given elsewhere.

To the friends who have aided me by counsel and advice in the preparation of the manuscript, and in passing the pages through the press, I take the occasion of tendering my sincerest thanks.

151 WEST FORTY-THIRD STREET, }
October 21st, 1878. }



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