

**AIDS TO THE CHEMISTRY
AND TESTS OF THE
PHARMACOPOEIA**

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Aids to the chemistry and tests of the pharmacopoeia by James Davison

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BY
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"Non ignara mali miseris succurrere disco."—Æneid.



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P R E F A C E .

AN Aid Book to Pharmaceutical Chemistry not having as yet been issued, I venture to publish these notes in hope that they may fill the want. I trust that they may prove useful to at least two classes of students.—First to those who, having worked up the subject previously from a larger treatise, may wish hurriedly to burnish their armour ere they try conclusions with the examiner. Again, to those who, with Professor Huxley, look upon *Materia Medica* as books *de omnibus rebus*, and therefore feel obliged to take at least a part of them in as minimised a form as possible. Sympathising with both classes, I have here endeavoured to put the Chemistry and Tests of the Pharmacopœia in the shortest and most concise manner compatible with rendering them intelligible.

So long as medical students are compelled to study nine or ten subjects in two years and a half, and *Materia Medica* is made to consist of chemistry, botany, zoology, and therapeutics, so long will aid books be a necessity—so long in some of these,

might I say in all, must we continue to merit the saying of the poet—

“A little learning is a dangerous thing.”

To those who condemn small books this is my apology.

These notes being intended for medical and pharmaceutical students, the nomenclature of the Pharmacopœia is used in preference to the more correct terms adopted in ordinary manuals of chemistry.

To the student who wishes to understand chemical equations, let him thoroughly comprehend *Quantivalence*, and learn off the names of the substances and their symbols occurring under this head. This will do more than anything else that I know of to facilitate his acquisition of a knowledge of chemistry.

These notes being mainly taken from Attfield, Wilson, and Roscoe's works on the subject, therefore contain nothing new, except in so far as condensation and arrangement are concerned. The student who wishes to pursue the subject at greater length, will find it in abundance in any of these books mentioned.

45 Lundy's-terrace, Dublin,
June, 1880.

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