

# PHARMACOPŒIAS AND FORMULARIES

## SUPPLEMENT 1952 TO THE BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CODEX 1949.

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The Supplement, 1952, to the B.P.C. 1949 is a commendable reflection of the prodigious rate of advancement of modern therapeutics. Like the parent volume, it is divided into 7 parts. Chemotherapeutic substances and antibiotics form the greater part of the 36 additions to Part I. Most of these added drugs are now in wide use, but apparently were not sufficiently proved to warrant their inclusion in the B.P.C. 1949. Of the new monographs, 14 have been added to bring the Codex into conformity with the British Pharmacopœia Addendum 1951. All but one of this latter group relate to substances developed in recent years, the exception being methacholine hydrochloride. Injection of Globin Zinc Insulin is the only long-established preparation given a monograph in the 22 other additions. The new non-pharmacopoeial substances include an antibiotic (aureomycin), 3 muscle-relaxants (gallamine triethiodide, mephenesin and decamethonium iodide), Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (cyanocobalamin), and two absorbable hæmostatics (oxidised cellulose and absorbable gelatin sponge). The comprehensive paragraphs on "Actions and Uses" will be of great use to those to whom the Codex is an everyday working tool. The vaccines for acne, dysentery (Flexner), staphylococcus and tuberculin were named in the British Pharmacopœia, 1948, but the Addendum, 1951, did not include the monographs for them. Hence, Part II of the Supplement deletes these vaccines in accordance with official policy. In Part III the monographs on human blood preparations, introduced in the 1949 Codex, having now been made official in the 1951 Addendum to the B.P., are here suitably amended to conform with the official requirements. Part V of the Supplement, Surgical Dressings, permits the use of rayon-cotton mixtures in some of the dressings where cotton only was allowed hitherto. A new bandage, "Rayon and Rubber Elastic Bandage," is included. Many changes appear in Part VI (The Formulary). In the formulation of the guttæ the percentage of medicament has been altered to give a round figure in the metric system with the consequence that the Imperial formulæ involve quantities quite awkward to weigh. A good example is Guttæ Atropinæ Sulphatis, which now requires 4½ gr. of alkaloid sulphate to make 1 fl. oz. as against 4 gr. (0.91 g.) before. Attention given to palatability and presentation of preparations for children answers questions which have arisen in the Symposium Sessions of the last two British Pharmaceutical Conferences. The book includes in its 148 pages new data on the densities of a number of volatile oils and galenicals and also modifications of certain tests and assay processes for inorganic chemicals. It is well bound, thoroughly indexed, and deserves attention not only as the complement to the B.P.C. 1949 but in its own right for the information it provides.