

Dispensing for Nurses.

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— PART II. —

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Weights and Measures and their Symbols.

IN dispensing, as in the pharmacopœia, the rule that liquids are measured and solids weighed is strictly adhered to. In this country, Apothecaries' weight is always used in dispensing, but on the continent the metrical system has been universally adopted. The weight of the ingredient in a prescription is expressed by the symbol following it:—

APOTHECARIES WEIGHT.		SYMBOL.	
20 grains ...	= 1 scruple	=	ʒi
3 scruples ...	= 1 drachm	=	ʒi
8 drachms ...	= 1 ounce	=	ʒi
MEASURES.			
60 minims ...	= 1 fluid drachm	=	ʒi
8 fluid drachms	= 1 fluid ounce	=	ʒi
20 fluid ounces	= 1 pint	=	oi
8 pints ...	= 1 gallon	=	ci

Thus ℥ is the abbreviation for a minim (the number always following in roman numerals) gtt: for drops, gr: for grain, ʒ represents a scruple, ʒ the drachm, ʒ for ounce; ss: following any of the foregoing signifies half; for example, ʒss represents half a drachm, ʒiiss an ounce and a half.

Terms used in Prescriptions.—After the ingredients and quantities, we come to the instructions to the dispenser as to the form in which the prescription is to be dispensed. In the following examples of these terms, we will first give the abbreviated form, then in full Latin, followed by the English translation, as it is the abbreviation that is almost invariably met with:—

Ft: mist: = fiat mistura = Let a mixture be made.
 Ft: haust: = fiat haustus = Let a draught be made.
 Ft: pulv: = fiat pulvis = Let a powder be made.
 Ft: pil: = fiat pilula = Let a pill be made.
 Ft: lin: = fiat linimentum = Let a liniment be made.
 Ft: ung: = fiat unguentum = Let an ointment be made.
 Ft: collyr: = fiat collyrium = Let an eye lotion be made.
 M = misce = Mix.

In the case of pills or powders, this is followed by instructions as to the number to be made, as:—

Mitte pulv: vi = Send six powders.
 Divide in pilulas triginta = Divide into thirty pills.

Dividendus in tres partes æquales = To be divided into three equal parts.

Fiant pilulæ duodecim = Let twelve pills be made.

Fiat pulvis in chartulas duas æqualiter dividendus = Let a powder be made to be equally divided into two powders.

The following are some of the common Latin terms used for preparations, measures, time, place, etc., etc.

As usually written.	Latin.	Translation.
Mist	... Mistura	... A mixture
Pil:	... Pilula	... A pill
T: Tr: Tinct:...	Tinctura	... A tincture
In: Inf:	... Infusum	... An Infusion
Dec: Decoct:...	Decoctum	... A decoction
Pulv:	... Pulvis	... A powder
Syr:	... Syrupus	... A syrup
Ext:	... Extractum	... An extract
Ac: acid:	... Acidum	... An acid
Liq:	... Liquor	... A solution
A a	... —	... Of each ingredient.
ad: adde	... Adde addendus	... Add, to be added
Ante	... Ante	... Before
Alt: hor.	... Alternis horis	... Every other hour
Aq: font.	... „ fontana	Spring water
Artic.	... Articulæ	... A joint
Auris.	... —	The ear
Bis ind.	... Bis in die	... Twice a day
Alter	... —	... Any
Alias	... —	... Another
Bib	... Bibe	... Drink
B. m.	... Balneum maris	... A sea bath
B. v.	... „ vaporis	... A vapor bath
C.	... Cum	... With
Cib.	... Cibus	... Meals, food
Capt.	... Capiat	... Let the patient take
Coch.	... Cochlear	... Spoon
Cephalalgia	... —	Headache
Coryza	... —	Cold in the head
Coxa	... —	The hip
Cœnam	... —	Supper
Coch amp:	... Cochlea amplum	A tablespoonful
„ mag:	... „ magnum	„
„ med:	... „ medium	A dessertspoonful
„ mod:	... „ modicum	„
„ parv:	... „ parvum	A small or teaspoonful
„ thea	... „ theæ	... A teaspoonful
Crea	... —	Strain
Co: comp:	... Compositus	... Compound
Cont: remed:...	Continuentur re- media	Let the medicines be continued
Coque	... —	Boil
Cort	... Cortex	... A bark
Cras	... Crastino	... To-morrow
C. vesp	... crastino vespere	... To-morrow morning
C. m. s.	... crastino mane	To be taken to- morrow morning
C. n.	... crastino nocte	... To-morrow night
Cujus	... —	... Of which
Cyath, cyath	... Cyathus, cyathus	... A wineglassful
vinar	... vinarius	
Donec somn:...	... —	... Till sleep comes on
obrep:	... —	

(To be continued.)

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