

respiration in the lower half of that side. There was a decided curvature of the spine, with concavity to the left. His general condition was very satisfactory. A few weeks later he was heard from as "well," and at work.

*Chronic Gastric Ulcer.* — Mary W., aged forty-six years, widow, entered the hospital March 20, 1876. She has had eight children and three miscarriages. She was always healthy and strong up to one year ago, when she began to have pain in the epigastrium, with nausea, headache, eructations of gas, vomiting of food, and on several occasions vomiting of blood, but the latter was not copious. The pain came on chiefly about five or ten minutes after eating. She had kept her bed most of the time for the previous two or three months, had lived almost wholly on gruel, and had lost much flesh and strength. The catamenia ceased a year ago. The bowels were costive; sleep poor; temperature and pulse normal. There was considerable general tenderness in the epigastrium, most marked below the xiphoid cartilage. Tongue moist, with thin, brown coat.

She was put upon a careful regimen of milk, beef-tea, and bits of ice, with lacto-peptine, bismuth, and mild laxatives. Under this treatment she improved rapidly, and left the hospital, April 7th, "much relieved."

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## THE METRIC SYSTEM IN PRESCRIPTIONS.

**MESSRS. EDITORS,** — The article by Dr. A. N. Blodgett in the number of the *JOURNAL* for December 21st shows some of the difficulties which will have to be encountered in introducing this system for use in prescribing. From the pharmacist's point of view there are also some difficulties which should be obviated if possible. The apothecary wishes to know exactly what quantities the physician intends. Dr. Blodgett states that "the druggist is expected to know how to dispense the articles without the special signs gmm. or c. c., and to understand solids as prescribed in grammes and liquids in cubic centimetres." Another Boston physician, one who has had considerable experience in the hospitals of Europe, understands that all quantities of liquids expressed in the metric system, with figures simply, mean grammes by weight; that he is accustomed to expressing quantities in his prescriptions in the metric system, and has supposed that all the substances were weighed, liquids as well as solids. Articles have recently appeared in some of the New York medical journals which seem to indicate that the intention of prescribers is to have everything weighed.

This diversity of opinion is mentioned to show that it would be well if there could be a distinct understanding as to what is meant by the figures when used without the special signs gmm. or c. c.

It would seem to be much easier for the physician to prescribe liquids by measure than by weight; it would certainly be much easier for the pharmacist to dispense them so. Until concerted action can be established, by the medical societies or otherwise, it would relieve the pharmacist of doubt if the special signs gmm. should be used to indicate quantities by weight and c. c. to indicate quantities by measure.

A TABLE FOR REDUCING TROY WEIGHT TO GRAMMES.				TABLE FOR REDUCING FLUID MEASURE TO CUBIC CENTIMETRES.	
Troy Weights.	Gramme Weights.	Troy Weights.	Gramme Weights.	Fluid Measure.	Cubic Centimetres.
Grain $\frac{1}{10}$	.006	Grains 80	5.18	Fluid Drachm $\frac{1}{2}$	1.84
" $\frac{1}{8}$	.008	" 90	5.83	" 1	3.69
" $\frac{1}{6}$	.011	" 96	6.22	" $1\frac{1}{2}$	5.53
" $\frac{1}{4}$	.016	" 100	6.48	" 2	7.38
" $\frac{1}{3}$	.022	" 120	7.75	" $2\frac{1}{2}$	9.22
" $\frac{1}{2}$	.032	" 150	9.72	" 3	11.07
" 1	.065	" 160	10.37	" 4	14.76
" 2	.13	" 180	11.66	" 5	18.4
" 3	.19	" 200	12.96	" 6	22.1
" 4	.26	" 240	15.55	" 7	25.8
" 5	.32	Drachms 6	23.3	Fluid Ounce 1	29.5
" 6	.39	" 8	31.1	" $1\frac{1}{2}$	44.3
" 8	.52	" 10	38.9	" 2	59.
" 10	.65	" 12	46.6	" 3	89.
" 12	.78	" 14	54.4	" 4	118.
" 15	.97	" 16	62.2	" 6	177.
" 16	1.04	" 20	77.7	" 8	236.
" 18	1.17	" 24	93.	" 10	295.
" 20	1.29	Ounces 4	124.	" 12	354.
" 24	1.55	" 5	155.	" 16	472.
" 30	1.94	" 6	186.	" 20	591.
" 36	2.33	" 7	217.	" 24	709.
" 40	2.59	" 8	248.	" 30	886.
" 50	3.24	" 9	279.	" 32	944.
" 60	3.89	" 10	311.		

For the convenience of those who wish to become more familiar with the equivalents in the metric system of quantities in common use in prescriptions in the old system, the accompanying table is appended. This table has been prepared by Messrs. T. Metcalf & Co., and copies of it will be freely furnished by them.

THOMAS DOLIBER.

COMPARATIVE MORTALITY-RATES FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 30, 1876.

	Estimated Population, July 1, 1876.	Total Mortality for the Week.	Annual Death-Rate per 1000 for the Week.	Death-Rate for the Year 1876.
New York	1,061,244	473	23.18	29.35
Philadelphia	825,594	318	20.03	22.24
Brooklyn	506,233	190	19.52	24.92
Chicago	420,000	178	22.04	19.75
Boston	352,758	146	21.52	26.20
Providence	101,500	24	12.29	19.02
Worcester	51,087	17	17.30	20.91
Lowell	51,639	20	20.14	20.55
Cambridge	49,670	13	13.61	23.31
Fall River	50,372	14	14.45	23.99
Lawrence	36,240	17	24.39	25.96
Lynn	33,548	13	20.15	19.23
Springfield	32,000	8	13.00	20.93
Salem	26,344	9	17.76	22.92

Normal Death-Rate, 17 per 1000.