



LATIN FOR PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS

A SIX MONTHS' COURSE OF LATIN FOR
STUDENTS OF PHARMACY AND MEDICINE

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PREFACE

THE following is an abstract from the British Pharmacopœia, 1953, p. xvii—

The most outstanding change has been the abandonment of Latin in the main titles of the monographs. English titles are used, and the Latin and abbreviated Latin titles of those monographs retained from the British Pharmacopœia, 1948, are usually given as subsidiary titles where they differ from the English titles. Latin subsidiary titles have not been coined for new monographs.

In view of the above, in this book, Latin titles have not been provided for substances which have become official since the publication of the British Pharmacopœia, 1948. The only changes made in this edition are, therefore, those arising from alterations in titles of substances official in the British Pharmacopœia, 1948, and retained in the British Pharmacopœia, 1953.

G. C.

ABERDEEN, 1956

PREFACE

TO THE FIRST EDITION

THE relegation of Latin to the position of a non-compulsory subject in Entrance Examinations has rendered necessary an entirely new method of teaching this subject to Medical and Pharmaceutical students. They have had no earlier school tuition in Latin, which formerly served as a foundation on which to build; consequently the old type of textbook specializing in Medical and Prescription Latin is totally unsuited to modern requirements.

Furthermore, the time demanded for adequate study of Science subjects is continually increasing, leaving less and less for Latin. There is undoubtedly a consensus of opinion that Latin should not be allowed to fall into desuetude, and in the authors' opinion this will only be prevented by, as it were, vigorous pruning, and remodelling teaching methods along the lines so successfully adopted by modern language Institutes.

To accomplish this, it has been necessary to disregard the time-honoured arrangement which commences with all the Declensions of Nouns and Adjectives, and then proceeds to the complete Conjugations of Verbs, and so on. In its place we have essayed to teach *Grammar applied in the form of phrases*, and to interest the student, from the earliest Lessons, in the building up of prescription sentences. Only those parts of the Verb needed in modern prescription writing have a place in the Lessons—the others taking their rightful position, in the Appendix, where they may be studied as time or inclination permits. Obsolete words and phrases, and expressions of academic interest only, have been omitted.

Each Lesson, and its accompanying Exercise, is intended to supply material for a fortnight's study, so that the entire course is covered within six months, and ample time is left for revision, and for practice in extending the abbreviated prescriptions given in the Appendix.

These innovations, while still ensuring a firm grasp of everyday essentials, should go far to prevent that mental indigestion

which so frequently besets the student taking a course in Medical and Pharmaceutical Latin.

How far we have succeeded in that direction it is not for us to judge, but we are convinced that a student of average ability, who carefully works through this course, will thereby obtain a soundly based knowledge of pharmaceutical Latin which will not fail him in his examination, nor in his subsequent career as a practising pharmacist.

J. W. C.

A. C. McL.

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LATIN FOR PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS

LESSON I INTRODUCTORY

Alphabet. The Latin Alphabet, consonants and vowels, corresponds to the English, omitting the letter "W." There are also five double-vowels or diphthongs, of which *ae* (æ), and *oe* (œ) are the chief.

Pronunciation. As Latin is a dead language, the pronunciation is comparatively unimportant, and students will find no difficulty in being understood if they pronounce Latin as if it were English.

In classical and other Latin books it is customary to indicate the length of a vowel by placing above it the sign (ˉ) for a long vowel and (˘) for a short. With few exceptions, noticed as they occur in the text, these quantity marks have little use in modern prescription writing, and they are practically meaningless if, as suggested, the Latin words are to be given an English pronunciation.

Accentuation. The correct accentuation of words in both Latin and English is governed by numerous rules and many exceptions. Bearing in mind the lack of agreement among expert linguists as regards the accentuation even of *English* words, we are not disposed to burden students with rules affecting *Latin*. Within narrow limits, there is some measure of uniformity in the accentuation of pharmaceutical Latin, and this will be quickly acquired in the lecture room and pharmacy. Provided the correct spelling is thoroughly mastered, accents may be left to individual preference.

THE ARTICLE

'A,' 'an,' and 'the,' have no counterparts in Latin; thus, *haustus* itself means "a draught" or "the draught."

THE NOUN OR SUBSTANTIVE

Nouns in Latin, as in English, have three Genders, Masculine (*m.*), Feminine (*f.*), and Neuter (*n.*), and these are indicated in dictionaries by the appropriate abbreviation. It is most important to couple the Gender with the Noun, as will be explained later.

They also have two Numbers, Singular and Plural, as in English.

Further, Latin Nouns have also six Cases, and when the Numbers and Cases are given in full, the Noun is said to be declined. These Cases are formed by varying the termination of the word, and they modify its meaning thus—

LATIN CASE	ENGLISH EQUIVALENT	ANSWERING
NOMINATIVE (N.)	The Subject of the Sentence.	Who? or What?
VOCATIVE (V.)	The Nominative of Address (not used in medical Latin, and will be ignored).	
ACCUSATIVE (A.)	The Objective Case, i.e. the person or thing directly affected by the action of the verb or preposition.	Whom? or What?
GENITIVE (G.)	The Possessive Case.	Whose? or Of what?
DATIVE (D.)	The Indirect Object.	To whom or what? For whom or what?
ABLATIVE (Ab.)	The Case of the Agent.	With, from, or by, whom or what?

Hence Nouns may be regarded as in two parts—

1. The Stem, which is unchanged throughout, and
2. The Ending or Inflexion, which is altered to give Number and Case, and frequently replaces the English Prepositions, *of*, *to*, *for*, *with*, *from*, and *by*.

This will be more readily grasped from the specimen declension given below—

FIRST DECLENSION OR “A” NOUNS

All Nouns of this declension used in medical Latin are Feminine. Nominative Singular ends in **-a**, Genitive Singular in **-æ**. Genitive Plural ends in **-Arum**, and for this reason they are called “A” Nouns.

Massa, æ, f., a mass

SINGULAR

PLURAL

NOM. (N.)	Mass-a, a (or the) mass (<i>Subject</i>)	Mass-æ, masses (<i>Subject</i>)
ACC. (A.)	Mass-am, „ „ (<i>Object</i>)	Mass-*as, „ „ (<i>Object</i>)
GEN. (G.)	Mass-æ, of a (or the) mass	Mass-*arum, of masses
DAT. (D.)	Mass-æ, to or for the mass	Mass-is, to or for the masses
ABL. (Ab.)	Mass-a,* with, from, or by, a mass	Mass-is, with, from, or by, masses

The endings, or inflexions, are shown separately in heavy type for clearness, but in writing the word is written as a whole. Students *must* learn each declension perfectly as soon as it appears in the book. By so doing they will find the construction and translation of sentences considerably facilitated.

Particular attention should be paid to the Genitive endings, as these at once indicate the particular declension of a noun. It will be noticed that dictionaries always give the full Nominative Singular, and the ending of the Genitive, thus *Massa, æ*. Given these two, the full declension of the Noun is immediately available.

VOCABULARY OF **First** DECLENSION, OR “**A**” NOUNS.†

(All Feminine and declined as **Massa, æ**.)

Ampull-a, æ, an ampoule
 Aqu-a, æ, water
 Belladonn-a, æ, belladonna
 Calamin-a, æ, calamine
 Camphor-a, æ, camphor
 Capsul-a, æ, a capsule
 Cer-a, æ, wax
 Drachm-a, æ, a drachm
 Granul-a, æ, a granule
 Gutt-a, æ, a drop
 Hebdomad-a, æ, a week
 Hor-a, æ, an hour
 Insomni-a, æ, sleeplessness

Jalap-a, æ, jalap
 Libr-a, æ, a pound
 Mistur-a, æ, a mixture
 Pilul-a, æ, a pill
 Resin-a, æ, resin
 Ros-a, æ, a rose
 Solvell-a, æ, a soluble tablet
 Strychnin-a, æ, strychnine (and all other alkaloids, e.g. Aconitina, Morphina)
 Tablett-a, æ, a tablet
 Tinctur-a, æ, a tincture
 Unci-a, æ, an ounce

Aloe, f., aloes, is a Greek word of the 1st Declension. The Genitive Singular (the only other Case the student need learn) is **aloes**.

* Usually written *ā*, i.e. they are long vowels, pronounced as in “part.”

† This and the succeeding Vocabularies are intentionally short, containing only those nouns needed for the Exercise which follows. Nouns needed in subsequent Exercises may be found by reference to the English-Latin Reference Vocabulary.

Examples. The following translations will illustrate the use of the above Case-endings—

One pound	of Jalap
Case: Nominative Sing.	Genitive Sing.

“One” is not translated when accompanied by a noun; in other words, “one pound” is expressed as “a pound.”

The translation is therefore—

<i>Libra</i>	<i>Jalapæ</i>
Of Tincture	of Belladonna.
Case: Genitive Sing.	Genitive Sing.
Translation: <i>Tincturæ</i>	<i>Belladonnæ</i>
With a drachm	of water.
Case: Ablative Sing.	Genitive Sing.
Translation: <i>Drachma</i>	<i>aquæ</i>

Put into the Accusative—

Rose	Water.
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In Latin there is no adjectival form of *Rose*, and the Noun must therefore be used. Hence the literal translation becomes—

Water	of Rose.
Case: Accusative Sing.	Genitive Sing.
Translation: <i>Aquam</i>	<i>Rosæ</i>

The above applies to the majority of similar expressions, e.g.—

Cinnamon Water becomes	Water of Cinnamon
Jalap Resin	Resin of Jalap
Sodium Bromide	Bromide of Sodium
Aloes Pill	Pill of Aloes
Gall Ointment	Ointment of Gall

EXERCISE I

A. Give the English equivalent or equivalents of—

Drachmas *Guttarum* *Aquis* *Pilulæ* *Uncia*

B. Give the Dative Plural of *Solvella*,
Nominative Plural of *Tabletta*,
Ablative Singular of *Hora*, and
Accusative Singular of *Aqua*.

C. Name the Case or Cases of each of the following—

Ceræ *Hebdomada* *Ampullas* *Capsulis*

D. Translate into Latin—

1. One ounce of Tincture of Jalap.
2. The Granules.
3. An hour of sleeplessness.
4. Jalap Resin.
5. With one ounce of the mixture.
6. Aloes Pill.
7. Gum* Acacia.
8. One drachm of Camphor Water.

* The Latin name is *gummi*, an indeclinable noun.

LESSON II

NOUNS, SECOND DECLENSION

CONTINUING the Declension of Nouns, we now come to the **SECOND DECLENSION**, or "**O**" Nouns, i.e. those forming the Genitive Plural in **-Orum**. (The 1st Declension, it will be recalled, dealt with "**A**" Nouns, Genitive Plural in "**-Arum**.")

SECOND DECLENSION OR "**O**" NOUNS

Nominative Singular ends in **-us**, **-er**, or **-um**.

Those in **-us** or **-er** are usually Masculine, and those in **-um**, Neuter.

Genitive Plural ends in **-Orum**—therefore called "**O**" Nouns.

SECOND DECLENSION IN **-us**

Scrupulus, i, m., a scruple

SINGULAR	PLURAL
N. Scrupul- us , a scruple (<i>Subject</i>)	Scrupul- i , scruples (<i>Subject</i>)
A. Scrupul- um , „ (<i>Object</i>)	Scrupul- os , „ (<i>Object</i>)
G. Scrupul- i , of a scruple	Scrupul- orum , of scruples
D. Scrupul- o , to or for a scruple	Scrupul- is , to or for scruples
Ab. Scrupul- o , with, from or by a scruple	Scrupul- is , with, from, or by scruples

The following Masculine Nouns are declined like **Scrupulus**—

Capill- us , i, a hair	Ocul- us , i, an eye	Succ- us , i, juice
*Congi- us , i, a gallon	Phosphor- us , i, phosphorus	Syrup- us , i, syrup
*Octari- us , i, a pint	*Scopari- us , i, broom	Trochisc- us , i, a lozenge

The following Feminine Nouns are declined like **Scrupulus**—

Carbas- us , i, gauze	Ulm- us , i, the elm tree
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SECOND DECLENSION IN **-er** (OCCASIONALLY **-ir**)

Puer, i, m., a boy

SINGULAR	PLURAL
N. Puer, a or the boy (<i>Subject</i>)	Puer- i , boys (<i>Subject</i>)
A. Puer- um , „ (<i>Object</i>)	Puer- os , „ (<i>Object</i>)
G. Puer- i , of the boy	Puer- orum , of boys
D. Puer- o , to or for the boy	Puer- is , to or for boys
Ab. Puer- o , with, from, or by a boy	Puer- is , with, from, or by boys

* NOTE. The letter "**i**" belongs to the Stem, and thus the Genitive Singular becomes **Congii**, **Octarii**, etc.

SECOND DECLENSION IN **-um**

Notice in this Declension that the Nominative and Accusative have the same form.

Extractum, i, n., an extract

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
N. }	{ Extract- um , an extract (<i>Subject</i>)	{ Extract- a , extracts (<i>Subject</i>)
A. }	{ Extract- um , „ (<i>Object</i>)	{ Extract- a , „ (<i>Object</i>)
G.	Extract- i , of the extract	Extract- orum , of extracts
D.	Extract- o , to or for an extract	Extract- is , to or for extracts
Ab.	Extract- o , with, from, or by an extract	Extract- is , with, from, or by extracts

The following Nouns, all Neuter, are declined like **Extractum**.

Auranti-um, i , the orange	Foli-um, i , a leaf	Pauxill-um, i , a little
Bromid-um, i , bromide; also the other acid radicles in <i>-ide</i>	Gran-um, i , a grain	Pigment-um, i , a paint
Decoct-um, i , decoction	Infus-um, i , infusion	Santonin-um, i , santonin
Dors-um, i , the back	Iodid-um, i , an iodide	Sodi-um, i , sodium
Emplastr-um, i , a plaster	Lign-um, i , wood	Stern-um, i , the chest
Ferr-um, i , iron, and also all the other metals	Obla-tum, i , a cachet	Zinc-um, i , zinc
	Oxid-um, i , oxide	

Examples. These translations, and the succeeding exercise, include 1st Declension Nouns as well as 2nd, in order to give students further practice with the former, and to mark the differences between the two.

1.	Sodium	Bromide
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For translation the literal reading is—

	Bromide	of Sodium.
Case:	Nomin. Sing.	Genit. Sing.
	2nd Decl.	2nd Decl.
Translation:	<i>Bromidum</i>	<i>Sodii</i>

2.	Belladonna	Leaves
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For translation the literal reading is—

	Leaves	of Belladonna
Case:	Nomin. Plural,	Genit. Sing.,
	2nd Decl.	1st Decl.
Translation:	<i>Folia</i>	<i>Belladonnæ</i>