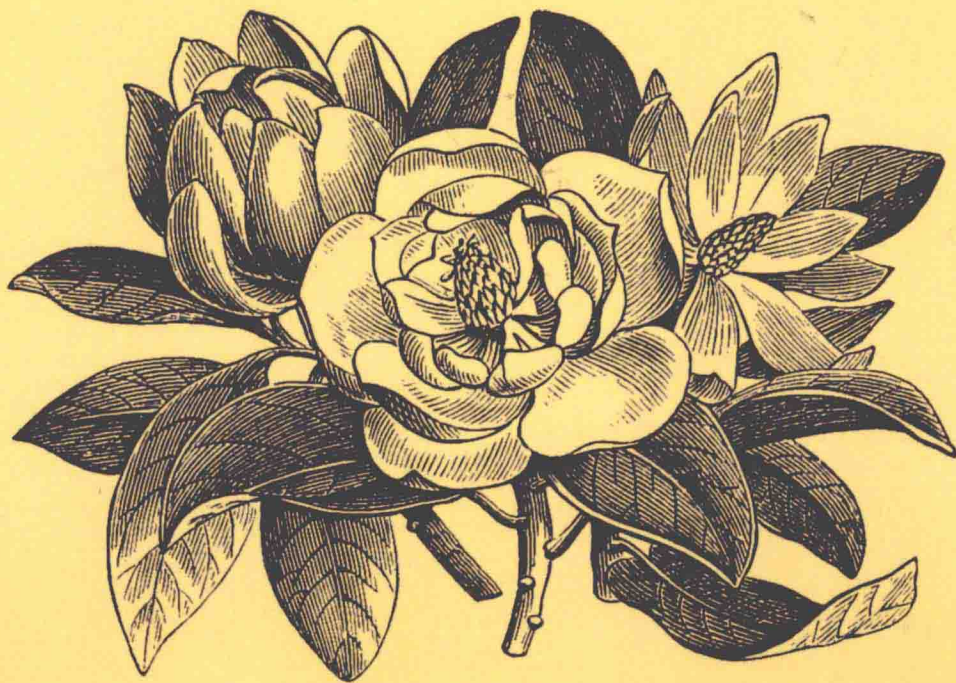


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# THE ELEMENTS OF MATERIA MEDICA AND THERAPEUTICS

VOLUME 1

JONATHAN PEREIRA

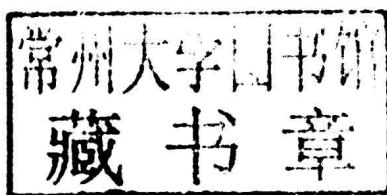


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# The Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics

VOLUME 1

JONATHAN PEREIRA



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It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which *On the Origin of Species* was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a 'miasma', and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale's common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

### **The Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics**

After training as an apothecary and surgeon, Jonathan Pereira (1804–53) taught materia medica for many years. His lectures at the medical school in London's Aldersgate Street were highly successful and formed the basis for the first edition of his major encyclopaedic work on medicinal substances. A pioneering text in the field of pharmacology, Pereira's work, which he subsequently updated in further editions, provided pharmacists and medical professionals with a more rigorous scientific understanding of the drugs and remedies they prescribed. After Pereira's death, medical jurist Alfred Swaine Taylor (1806–80) and physician George Owen Rees (1813–89) prepared this revised and expanded fourth edition, interspersed with instructive woodcuts. Volume 1 (1854) includes discussion of 'physical remedies' such as heat, cold and electricity, and 'hygienic remedies' of diet, exercise and climate. It then focuses on general pharmacological practice and specific drugs, describing the medicinal properties of inorganic compounds.

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ELEMENTS  
OF  
MATERIA MEDICA.

LONDON:  
**WILSON AND OGILVY,**  
Skinner Street.

# PREFACE

TO THE FOURTH EDITION

---

IN presenting to the profession the fourth edition of the first volume of the *Elements of Materia Medica* of the late Dr. Pereira, the editors have endeavoured to carry out the plan of the author, by introducing in a concise form a selection of the most important and most recent additions to this branch of medical science. The rapid sale of the second part of the second volume is a satisfactory indication that their efforts to maintain the character of this valuable work have been so far successful.

In adopting the language of the author in his preface to the third edition, the editors take leave to remark, that many portions of the volume have been entirely re-written, some have been curtailed, others enlarged, and every part has been carefully corrected and, it is believed, much improved. Recent discoveries in natural history, chemistry, physiology, and practical medicine, relating to the MATERIA MEDICA, have been introduced into this edition, which, it is believed, will be found to contain a faithful outline of the present state of pharmacological knowledge. The views and opinions of the author have been in no case interfered with. The additions made by the editors have been introduced in brackets.

The numerous changes made in the London and Dublin Pharmaco-



pœias, since the publication of the former edition, have been duly noticed: in short, the editors have had in view the desire of the author, to render his work an *Encyclopædia of Materia Medica*, and they have endeavoured to make it, as it has hitherto proved, a safe and useful guide to the pharmacist and the medical practitioner.

ALFRED SWAINE TAYLOR.

GEORGE OWEN REES.

LONDON, Nov. 7, 1854.

## CORRIGENDA.

Page.	Line.	
4	2	from foot, in reference, <i>for</i> "Lib. iii. c. 2," <i>read</i> "c. 27."
158	19	from foot, <i>for</i> "topical," <i>read</i> "local."
175	14	from top, <i>for</i> "alimencary," <i>read</i> "alimentary."
373	7	from foot, <i>for</i> " $2\text{SO}^2$ ," <i>read</i> " $\text{SO}^2$ ."
301	17	from foot, <i>for</i> "chloride of magnesium," <i>read</i> "chloride of sodium," and <i>vice versâ</i> .
474	9	from top, <i>for</i> "Edinburgh Pharmacopœia," <i>read</i> "London and Edinburgh Pharmacopœias."
605	12	from top, <i>dele</i> the words "Soap," to "L. D." The line should commence with "Castile Soap, ꝑiss."
605	15	from top, <i>for</i> "Spirit of Rosemary," <i>read</i> "Proof Spirit."
614	19	from top, after Chloride of Barium, <i>for</i> "ꝓj." <i>read</i> "ʒj."
832	12	from foot, <i>for</i> "Superphosphas," <i>read</i> "Subperphosphas."



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