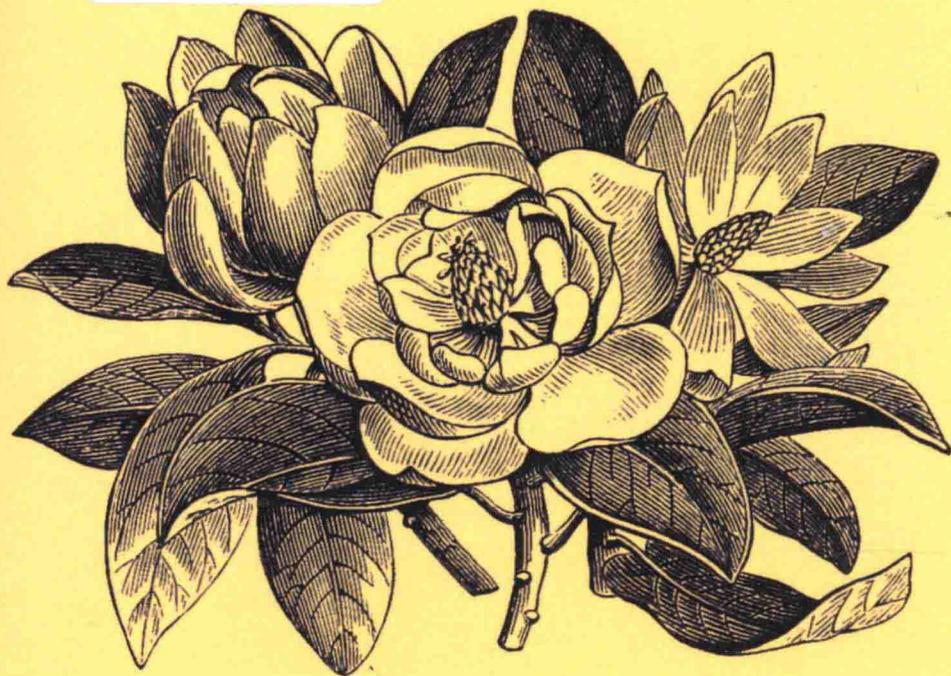


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THE ELEMENTS OF  
MATERIA MEDICA  
AND THERAPEUTICS

VOLUME 2 – PART 2

JONATHAN PEREIRA



CAMBRIDGE

# The Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics

VOLUME 2 - PART 2

JONATHAN PEREIRA



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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## **History of Medicine**

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 2 is divided into two parts. Part 2 (1857) contains new articles, additional illustrations and a separate index. It concludes the analysis of organic compounds, both vegetable and animal.

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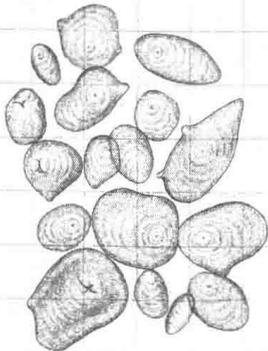
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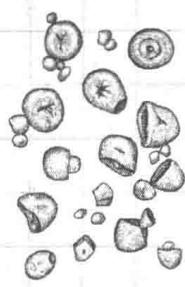
MATERIA MEDICA.

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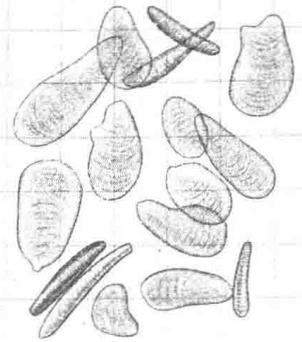
1000<sup>a</sup>



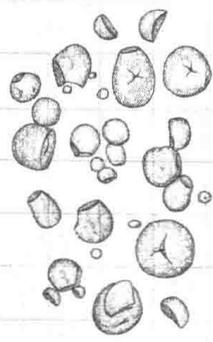
10 West India Arrow root (*Maranta*)



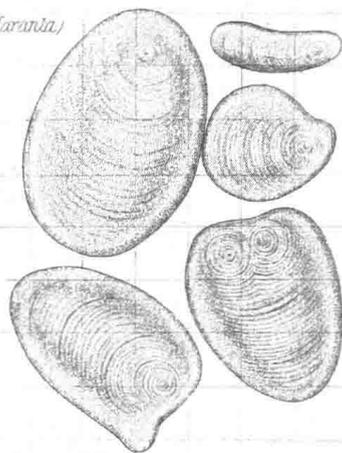
11 Portland Arrow root (*Arum*)



12 East India Arrow root (*Curcuma*)



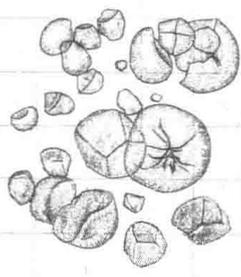
14 Cassava (*Manihot*)



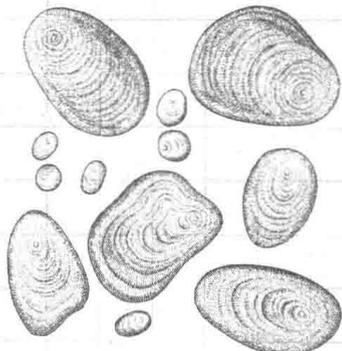
13 Tous les Mois (*Canna*)



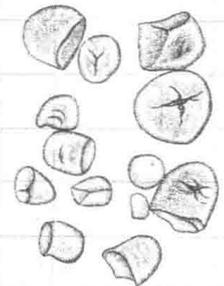
15 Tapioca (*Manihot*)



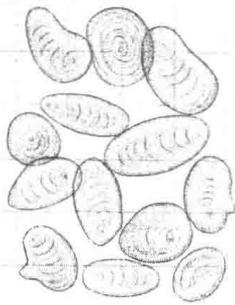
16 Lycas.



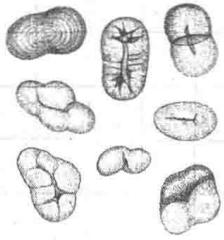
17 Potato (*Solanum*)



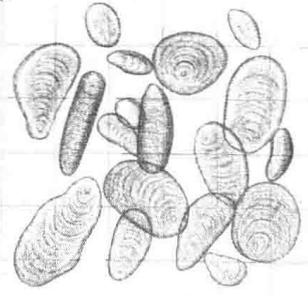
18 Tahiti Arrow root (*Tacca*)



19 Yarn (*Proscovia*)



20 Pea (*Pisum*)



21 Plantain (*Musa*)

THE  
ELEMENTS  
OF  
MATERIA MEDICA  
AND  
THERAPEUTICS.

BY  
JONATHAN PEREIRA, M.D. F.R.S. & L.S.

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AND PHYSICIAN TO THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

*Fourth Edition,*  
ENLARGED AND IMPROVED,  
INCLUDING  
NOTICES OF MOST OF THE MEDICINAL SUBSTANCES IN USE IN THE  
CIVILISED WORLD,  
AND FORMING AN  
*Encyclopædia of Materia Medica.*

VOL. II. PART II.

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1857.

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Printed by SPOTTISWOODE & Co.  
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## P R E F A C E .

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BY the publication of this volume the fourth edition of the Elements of Materia Medica and Therapeutics is brought to a completion. The Author died while the third edition of the present volume was passing under his revision; and it devolved upon the Editors to complete that which he had commenced. In the short period of three years a new edition has been called for; and in this second revision of the volume, the Editors have endeavoured to improve the work, both in matter and arrangement. The additions made on the present occasion amount to nearly one hundred pages. They include twenty new articles and fifteen additional illustrations. The articles on CHLOROFORM and COD LIVER OIL have been re-written. Numerous additions have been made to the sections on the vegetable alkaloids and principles, some of which are for the first time described in this volume. These will be found under the articles *Conia*, *Cotarnine*, *Opianine*, *Opianic Acid*, *Narcogenine*, *Papaverine*, *Helleborine*, *Aconitine*, *Berberine*, and other similar compounds. The reader will also find, in their appropriate places, short notices of *Amylene* and *Pepsine*, two substances which have been quite recently introduced into medical practice. To the pharmaceutical compounds described in the previous editions many new preparations have been added from the Pharmacopœias of Norway and the United States. The Editors have also transferred to

this volume various new articles of *Materia Medica* but little known in this country, which have been incorporated with the third American edition by Dr. Carson.

The volume has been separately paged, and is provided with a separate index. Some articles which more appropriately belonged to other parts of the work, have been transferred to the other volumes. In spite of this it will be perceived that there is a great increase of matter, both in the text and in the notes. Acting upon the rule which they have hitherto pursued, the Editors have not interfered with the views of the Author; they have simply added in brackets such notes and remarks as appeared to them to be required in the present state of science. The fourth edition of this standard scientific work now comprises upwards of two thousand five hundred pages, including five hundred and eighty-six articles of *Materia Medica*, of which one hundred and ninety-eight are contained in the first volume, under the head of *MINERAL SUBSTANCES*, and three hundred and eighty-eight in the two parts of the second volume, comprising *VEGETABLE AND ANIMAL SUBSTANCES*. These are illustrated by four hundred and seventy-eight engravings. Of the value of the matter thus contributed to the medical literature of the day, the Editors feel themselves at liberty to speak, since the Author is now no more, and they have merely aided in carrying out his views. Their opinion is the expression of the opinion of the whole profession, both in this and foreign countries,—namely, that in copiousness of details, in extent, variety, and accuracy of information, and in a lucid explanation of difficult and recondite subjects, it surpasses all other works on *Materia Medica* hitherto published. The history of a drug, as it is given in these volumes, is not a dry description of its physical characters and its medicinal uses. Philology, Natural History, Botany, Chemistry, Physics, and the Microscope, are all brought forward to

elucidate the subject; and the reader thus acquires a full scientific knowledge of each article of *Materia Medica* before he is introduced to a description of its effects on plants, animals, and man, or to the various theories of its operation, and the different uses to which it has been applied in ancient and modern times. It is a peculiar feature in the writings of the Author,—one which is stamped upon every page of this treatise,—that he was not satisfied until he had thoroughly exhausted the subject. His references to ancient and modern authorities are constant and numerous: he has gone to all sources which are capable of yielding information, and has fairly acknowledged his obligations to those by whose learning, experience, or research, he has profited. He has thus succeeded in transforming the substance of an unpretending course of lectures into a complete *Encyclopædia* of *Materia Medica*.

That the labours of the Author, are fully appreciated by the profession is proved by the fact that, since his decease, within the short period of four years a new edition of each volume has been called for, and two editions of the present volume have issued from the press.

ALFRED SWAINE TAYLOR.  
GEORGE OWEN REES.

London, May 1857.



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