

## PREFACE

In 1903 the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society decided to produce a book of reference that supplied authoritative guidance to those engaged in the prescribing and dispensing of medicines throughout the British Empire. The first edition of this book was published in 1907 under the title *The British Pharmaceutical Codex (BPC)* and subsequent editions were published at regular intervals. The early editions of the *British Pharmaceutical Codex* were designed to supplement the information in the *British Pharmacopoeia* by providing information on the actions and uses of drugs; they also provided formulae and standards for a range of materials that were not included in the *Pharmacopoeia*. However, in 1972, the Medicines Commission (formed as a result of the Medicines Act 1968) recommended that there should be only one compendium of standards for all medicines in the United Kingdom, and that this should be the *British Pharmacopoeia*; the provision of standards in the *BPC* was therefore discontinued. A major reconstruction of the *BPC* was undertaken, resulting in the publication of the 11th Edition, known as *The Pharmaceutical Codex*. The prime function of the 1979 edition was as a compendium of drug information arranged in encyclopaedic style.

In the mid-1980s the Council considered the content of all of the Society's publications. In view of the coverage of actions and uses of drugs and medicines in *Martindale: The Extra Pharmacopoeia* and the *British National Formulary* it was decided to discontinue those aspects of the *Codex*. Consequently, the content of the *Codex* was changed to reflect some of the core areas of pharmacy identified by the Nuffield Report on Pharmacy. These include the materials of pharmacy, the preparation and presentation of drugs as medicines, and the biological fate of drugs as medicines. The more patient orientated aspects of pharmacy that appeared in *The Pharmaceutical Codex* and the former *Pharmaceutical Handbook* were developed in the

*Handbook of Pharmacy Health-care: Diseases and Patient Advice* (1990) and *Handbook of Pharmacy Health Education* (1991).

This 12th Edition, now retitled *The Pharmaceutical Codex: Principles and Practice of Pharmaceutics* is produced by direction of the Council of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

The practice of pharmacy has changed considerably since the publication of the previous *Codex*. The extent of extemporaneous dispensing undertaken in pharmacies has been greatly reduced in favour of the presentation of medicaments as unit dosage forms. Nevertheless, it is well recognised that the pharmacist has a unique and central role in the provision of effective modern dosage forms.

The objective of the augmented and redesigned *Codex* is to provide a reference source on those aspects of pharmaceutical science and technology that are applied in the development and provision of therapeutically active dosage forms.

The underlying themes of the chapters are the multidisciplinary nature of pharmaceutics, which draws on physical, biological, engineering, and material sciences in the development of drug delivery systems, and how quality is built into medicines from conception and development to production and use. The chapters are supplemented by an extensive collection of data on the pharmaceutical aspects of 154 drugs, drawn from the files of the Pharmaceutics Division of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in Edinburgh, and arranged in monograph form.

*The Pharmaceutical Codex: Principles and Practice of Pharmaceutics*, like its predecessors, represents a valuable reference source to any person with an interest in the preparation and presentation of medicines including pharmaceutical scientists engaged in formulation, development, or production; preregistration pharmacy graduates; students of pharmacy and related subjects; and all pharmacists—both in the United Kingdom and overseas.