

VII. APPARATUS AND CHESTS.

ISSUE PLAISTERS. *Sparadrapum pro fonticulis*. Ceræ fl. ℥ss, minii, tereb. Chia ana ℥iv, cinnab., rad. irid. Flor. ana ℥j, mosch. gr. iv: melted, spread upon linen, polished with a moistened calendering glass rubber, and lastly cut in small squares.

2. Diachyl. simpl. ℥j, rad. irid. Flor. ℥j; spread, and polished.

3. Diachyl. simpl. 2℥, pic. Burg., sarcoëollæ ana 4 oz. tereb. comm. 1 oz.: spread and polished.

CORN PLAISTERS. *Sparadrapum viride*. Ceræ fl. 2℥, pic. Burgund. 12 oz. tereb. comm. 6 oz. ærug. ppæ. 3 oz.; spread on cloth, cut and polished.

DEFENSIVE PLAISTERS. *Sparadrapum seu Tela Galteri*. Ol. oliv. ℥ss, sevi ovill. ℥iv, ceræ ℥x, litharg., tereb. comm., thuris, mastiches ana ℥ij, boli Armen. ppæ., farinæ tritici ana ℥j; pour it, while liquid, upon cloth, and spread it: used for issues, and to keep on dressings.

ADHESIVE PLAISTERS. *Strapping*. *Sparadrapum ad-hæsivum*. Diachyl. 1℥, resinæ fl. 4 oz. tereb. comm. half an oz. or in summer time only ℥ij; melt, pour upon cloth, and spread it rather thick; much used by surgeons to close the lips of wounds, and retain dressings.

BOUGIES. *Candelæ probatoriæ*. Catgut, of different thicknesses, dipped in emplastr. hydrargyri, and rolled smooth upon a slab.

2. Pieces of old linen about a foot long, wide at one end, and tapering to the other, dipped in empl. hydrargyri, empl. saponis, or diachyl. simpl. and rolled up while the plaster is yet warm, upon a heated slab.

3. *Elastic gum bougies*. Catgut dipped repeatedly in a solution of elastic gum or Indian rubber, in ether or naph-

tha, until a sufficient thickness of gum is deposited upon the catgut.

4. *Ceræ* fl. ℥j, sperm. ceti ℥ij, cerussæ acetat. ℥v, spread upon cloth, cut in slips, and roll the spread side outwards.

5. *Bell's*. Empl. litharg. ℥iv, cer. fl. ℥jfs, ol. olivæ ℥ij.

ELASTIC GUM CATHETERS. A bougie, made of fine catgut, very thickly coated with wax, bent to the proper curve, is dipped repeatedly in the ethereal solution of elastic gum, until a sufficient thickness of gum is deposited upon the bougie, it is then dried perfectly in a warm room or stove; and finally boiled in water to melt out the wax and allow the catgut to be withdrawn.

2. A wire bent to the proper curve is wrapped round spirally, the turns overlapping each other, with a thin riband of elastic gum, whose surface has been softened by dipping in boiling water, or still better in ether, or in a solution of camphire in spirit of nitre to which some spirit of wine has been added; over this is wound a silk riband, and over that another worm of packthread to bind down the whole: when the gum is judged to be dry enough, the packthread and riband are removed, the catheter dipped for a moment in boiling water to expand it, and allow the wire to be withdrawn, and one or two holes are then made at the close end.

3. A fine tissue of silk is wove upon a wire properly bent; and the wire thus clothed is dipped in the ethereal solution of elastic gum, and treated as in the first method; when properly covered and dried, the wire is withdrawn, and the aperture at the closed end made.

LEAD TREE. Sugar of lead ℥vj, distilled or rain water 2 pints; dissolve, and hang in it, by a thread, a small piece of zinc.

PHOSPHORUS BOTTLES. Phosphorus ℥ij, lime ℥j, mixed together, put into a loosely stopped phial, and heat it before the fire, or in a ladle of sand, for about half an hour.

2. Phosphorus ℥j, cera alba gr. xv, put it into a bottle under water, and melt them together, let the water cool, and as it begins to grow solid, turn the bottle round, that the sides may be coated, then pour out the water, and dry it in a cool place.

MATCHES FOR INSTANTANEOUS LIGHT. Oxymuriate of potash, flowers of sulphur ana ℥fs, vermilion gr. ij, oil of turpentine q. s. to make a paste, with which coat the ends of

slips of wood, previously dipped in oil of turpentine and dried: when these matches are plunged into oil of vitriol and immediately withdrawn, they take fire instantaneously. To prevent the oil of vitriol from spilling, if the bottle should accidentally fall on one side, pounded asbestus or sand is put into the bottle to soak up the acid.

2. Oxymuriate of potash gr. ix, sugar gr. iij, flowers of sulphur gr. ij, vermilion gr. j, wheat flour gr. ij, spirit of wine q. s.; the wood to be previously primed with camphire dissolved in spirit of wine.

EMETIC CUPS. *Antimonial cups.* Cast from regulus of antimony in a mould.

2. Cast from regulus Jovis; is easier made and less brittle: used to prepare emetic wine, by leaving wine in it for 12 hours.

CHINESE PURGING CUP. Made of risigallum, or red arsenic: wine is left in them all night, and drank in the morning as a purge.

ANODYNE NECKLACES. Are formed of the roots of hyoscyamus, Job's tears, allspice steeped in brandy, or the seeds of the wild liquorice vine, to suit the fancies of the prescribers: used to procure easy dentition in children, and sleep in fevers.

APPENSA. Root of vervain hung round the neck by a yard of white satin riband for scrofula: but the usual medicines must be exhibited during the same period.

2. A root of the peiony, suspended to the neck in epilepsy: its use is to be accompanied with that of the most active cathartics.

3. Magnes arsenicalis, or camphire, hung to the neck so as to reach the pit of the stomach, to guard against contagion, act probably by inspiring courage.

TRACING PAPER. Rub very thin paper with drying lint-seed oil. This soon turns very dark coloured.

2. Thin lint-seed oil with oil of turpentine, and rub the paper with this compound oil.

3. Nut oil, oil of turpentine ana p. æq. rub the paper with this oil, and dry it immediately by rubbing it with wheat flour: this may be used to copy drawings or writings as soon as made: if washed over with ox gall, it will bear being written upon with ink.

SPONGE TENTS. *Turunda intumescentes.* Soft sponge is dipped in melted wax, and squeezed in a press while

warm, when cold it is taken out, and cut into the required form; used to dilate fistulous ulcers by its expanding force when softened by warmth and moisture.

VACCINE MATTER. Collected either upon lancets, or by opening the pustule, and applying a small glass ball and tube (like those called by the boys in London, candle pops, or fire pops) to the opening, expelling part of the air in the ball by bringing a lighted taper near it, then withdrawing the taper the matter is drawn into the ball, in which it may be sealed up hermetically or cemented, and thus kept for a length of time: used lately for an absolute preventive of the small pox, but now with a view of diminishing the susceptibility of acquiring that disease, and to render it milder if acquired.

SMALL POX MATTER. Collected from the pustules upon lancets, or the scales of the pustules are preserved: used to communicate the disease under favourable circumstances, instead of hazarding its being acquired when circumstances are unfavourable.

COURT PLAISTER. *Sticking plaister.* Black silk is strained and brushed over with a solution of isinglass 1 oz. in proof spirit 12 oz. to which tinct. benz. 2 oz. is added; when dry this is repeated five times more, after which, two coats are given it of a solution of tereb. Chia 4 oz. in tinct. benz. 6 oz. which renders it less liable to crack; but some finish it with a simple tincture of black balsam of Peru.

MEDICINE CHESTS FOR SHIPS THAT CARRY A SURGEON. Some idea of what ought to be shipped for a voyage, may be formed from the following lists which the physician of Greenwich hospital, Dr. Blane, judges necessary for the service of 100 men for 12 months; viz.

1. *Pharmaceutic articles.* Cort. Peruv. 10℔, if for a warm climate 20℔—Glauber's or Epsom salt 10℔—senna 2℔—ipecac. 4 oz.—tartar emetic 1 oz. and a half—calomel 2 oz. and a half—opium 1 oz.—aloes half an oz.—gum ammoniac 2 oz.—bals. copaibæ 3 oz.—cantharides 1 oz.—capsicum 3 oz.—tinct. benz. comp. 4 oz.—camphire 3 oz.—castor 1 oz. and a half—camomile fl. or hops 2℔—cinnamon 1 oz.—chalk ppd. or oyster-shells 6 oz.—conserva of roses 8 oz.—confectio cardiaca 2 oz.—extract. cathart. half an oz.—extr. conii 3 oz.—extr. hæmatoxyli 1 oz.—gentian root 5 oz.—ginger 3 oz.—gum Arabic 4 oz.—gum guaiacum 3 oz.—jalap 1 oz. and a half—laudanum (tinct.) 4 oz.

lint-seed 1lb—magnesia (carbonate) 6 oz.—manna 8 oz.—mustard seed whole 8 oz.—myrrh 4 oz.—quick silver 2 oz.—corrosive sublimate 1 oz.—sal nitri 8 oz.—almond oil 1 pint—castor oil 8 oz.—lint-seed oil 3 pints—oleum menthæ 1 oz.—Jamaica pepper 4 oz.—quassia 8 oz.—volatile salts 2 oz.—sal Martis half an oz.—kali ppi. 10 oz.—Venice soap 8 oz.—sarsaparilla 3lb—Virginia snake root 4 oz.—spermaceti 4 oz.—spirit of wine 1 pint—spirit of vitriol 8 oz.—ammonia acetat, or materials for preparing it, 2 pints—oil of turpentine 4 oz.—dried squills half an oz.—flowers of sulphur 1 oz.—golden sulphur of antimony half an oz.—cream of tartar 1lb—vinegar 6 pints, white vitriol 1 oz.—wormwood 1lb—flowers of zinc 3j.

2. *Surgical applications.* Simple cerate 6lb—spermaceti ointment 6lb—red precipitate 1lb—blue vitriol 8 oz.—blister plaster 6lb—extr. Saturni 4lb—sugar of lead 4lb—cantharides in powder 1lb—strapping, lint, tow, rags at discretion.

3. *Dietetic articles.* Barley 3 cwt.—eggs greased and packed in salt 20 doz.—extract of spruce 12lb—lemon juice clarified and rum added to make it keep 5 gall.—raisins 50lb—rice 2 cwt.—coarse sugar 2 cwt.—sago 20lb—salep powder 10lb—portable soup 50lb—tamarinds 10lb—white wine 300 gall.—red wine 100 gallons.

MEDICINE CHESTS FOR PLANTATION SERVICE. Dancer, in his Medical Assistant, gives the following list of medicines as necessary, along with indigenous remedies, for 100 negroes for a year. Aloes 8 oz.—alum 8 oz.—Peruvian bark 4lb, balsam Copaibæ 8 oz.—cantharides 8 oz.—calomel 1 oz.—camphire 8 oz.—catechu 1lb—camomile flowers 1lb—elixir of vitriol 8 oz.—paregoric elixir 8 oz.—extr. cathart. half an oz.—flowers of sulphur 1lb—flowers of zinc 1 oz.—gamboge 1 oz.—gum ammoniac 4 oz.—gum Arabic 8 oz.—ipecacuanha 4 oz.—iron filings ppd. 2lb—jalap 4 oz.—lint-seed 2lb—liquorice 8 oz.—magnesia alba 4 oz.—mezereon 4 oz.—myrrh 4 oz.—sal nitri 4 oz.—spirit of nitre 4 oz.—opium 4 oz.—oil of anise seed 2 oz.—olive oil 4 pints—oil of peppermint 1 oz.—oil of turpentine 1lb—yellow basilicon 1lb—simple cerate 1lb—mercurial ointment 4 oz.—gum plaster 8 oz.—mercurial plaster 4 oz.—sumach 2 oz.—sal ammoniac 4 oz.—Glauber's salt 10lb—kali ppd. 8 oz.—sal Martis 2 oz.—senna 4 oz.—snake root 4 oz.—spirit of sal ammoniac 6 oz.—ammonia acetat 2 pints—double distilled lavender water 4 oz.—Hoffman's anodyne liquor 4 oz.—sweet spirit of nitre 4 oz.—emetic tartar half an oz.—rhubarb 4 oz.—

—Strasburgh turpentine 4 oz.—vinegar 2 gall.—extractum Saturni 8oz.—white vitriol 2oz.—blue vitriol 4 oz.—verdigris 8 oz.—red precipitate 4 oz.—corrosive sublimate half an oz.

2. *Necessaries.* 1 large clyster syringe, 1 small ditto, 6 for injections, 4 lancets, 1 tooth instrument, 3 or 4 eye cups, 1 doz. bougies in sorts, 3 doz. phials with corks, 3 doz. pill boxes, 1 set of scales and weights, lint and tow.

MEDICINE CHESTS FOR SMALL SHIPS, OR FAMILIES IN THE COUNTRY. These are usually made up to some book of directions, of which three are in general use in London, viz.

1. A Companion to the Medicine Chest, published by Tindal, and now by Highley, which, being well written, is adapted for chests ordered by persons of education, for whose diseases also the medicines are selected. It were to be wished that the medicine-cabinet makers would adapt the bottles, &c. to this book. By a singular error, the words laudanum and opium are throughout used as synonymous to each other, while at the same time the tincture of opium is probably meant by both.

2. Directions for the Use, &c. published by Shaw, the druggists' printer. These directions and medicines are principally intended for the diseases of the lower classes, hence this is the book by which druggists generally make up medicine chests for small ships which do not carry a surgeon, unless they have books of their own, as is the case with most of the druggists in sea ports, or the eastern side of London, because Shaw's Directions require the generality of the medicines ordered to be made up when wanted from the different simple articles contained in the chest, whereas sea-commanders prefer a chest of medicines ready prepared for use, and which at most require only to be weighed or measured, and even that operation not to require great accuracy, previous to their exhibition.

Among the many books of this kind I have found in the chests brought to me to refit, most of which are copies, with some slight variations of each other, one appeared far superior to the rest. It was written by Mr. Lot Trip, and published by Hull and Brown, No. 145, Pearl Street, but of what town or city is not mentioned, nor at what time. It had this striking advantage, that there was given at the end the composition of the several compound medicines used in it, so that it could be refitted, as at first, at any port; and if a medical man happened to be a passenger on board,

he could use the medicines with more confidence than if he had to guess at their composition from their appearance, and the directions given for their use.

3. The Family Medicine Chest Book, published by Cox, mostly used by country druggists, as her situation, close to the two most frequented hospitals in London, generally introduces it to the notice of the young medical men from the country.

Besides these three books, which contain what may be called sets of medicines for ordinary cases until regular assistance can be obtained, there is a fourth, called An Index to the portable Dispensary, published by Phillips, which describes the uses and doses of the most common medicines, and is adapted for small cabinets, containing only a few articles, for which purpose it may in some cases be cut up, and used as descriptive labels.

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