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CHAP. XLI.—LINIMENTS, OINTMENTS,  
CERATES, AND PLASTERS.

THESE are all combinations of fixed oil, or animal fat, with other substances, and differ from each other only in consistence. Deyeux has, indeed, lately defined plasters to be combinations of oil with metallic oxides; but as this would comprehend many of our present ointments, and exclude many of our plasters, we shall adhere to the old meaning of the terms.

*Liniments* are the thinnest of these compositions, being only a little thicker than oil.

*Ointments* have generally a degree of consistence like that of butter.

*Cerates* are firmer, and contain a larger proportion of wax.

*Plasters* are the most solid, and derive their firmness, either from a large proportion of wax, resin, &c. or from the presence of some metallic oxide, such as that of lead.

Plasters should have such a consistence as not to adhere to the fingers when cold, but become soft and plastic when gently heated. The heat of the body should render them tenacious enough to adhere to the skin, and to the substance on which they are spread. When prepared, they are usually formed into rolls, and inclosed in paper. Plasters of a small size are often spread on leather, sometimes on strong paper, or on tin-foil, by means of a spatula gently heated, or the thumb. The leather is cut of the shape wanted, but somewhat larger; and the margin all around, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in breadth is left uncovered, for its more easy removal when necessary. Linen is also used, especially for the less active plasters, which are used as dressings, and often renewed. It is generally cut into long slips, of various breadths, from one to six inches. These may either be dipt into the melted plaster, and passed through two pieces of straight smooth wood, held firmly together, so as to remove any excess of plaster; or, what is more elegant, they are spread on one side only, by stretching the linen, and applying the plaster, which has been melted and allowed to become almost cold, evenly by means of a spatula gently heated, or, more accurately, by passing the

linen on which the plaster has been laid, through a machine formed of a spatula fixed, by screws, at a proper distance from a plate of polished steel.

To prevent repetition, the Edinburgh college give the following canon for the preparation of these substances :

In making these compositions, the fatty and resinous substances are to be melted with a gentle heat, and then constantly stirred, adding, at the same time, the dry ingredients, if there be any, until the mixture on cooling becomes stiff.

The Dublin College prefixes the following direction :

Tutty and calamine employed in making ointments, are prepared in the same manner as chalk.

In making ointments and plasters, the wax, resins, and fats, are to be melted with a moderate heat, then removed from the fire, and constantly stirred, until they cool, adding, at the same time, the dry ingredients, if there be any, in very fine powder.

SEVUM PRÆPARATUM. *Lond.*

*Prepared Suet.*

Cut the suet into pieces, melt it over a slow fire, and express it through linen.

ADEPS PRÆPARATA. *Lond.*

*Prepared Hogs Lard.*

Cut the lard into pieces, melt it over a slow fire, and express it through linen.

ADEPS SUILLUS PRÆPARATUS. *Dub.*

*Prepared Hogs Lard.*

Melt fresh lard, cut in pieces, with a moderate heat, and strain with expression through flannel.

Lard, which is purified by those who sell it, and which is preserved with salt, is to be melted with twice its weight of boiling water, and the mixture well agitated. Set it then aside until it cool, and separate the fat.

BEFORE proceeding to melt these fats, it is better to separate as much of the membranes as possible, and to wash them in repeated quantities of water until they no longer give out any colour. Over the fire they will be perfectly transparent, and, if they do not crackle on throwing a few drops into the fire, it is a sign that all the water is evaporated, and that the

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fats are ready for straining, which should be done through a linen cloth without expression. The residuum may be repeatedly melted with a little water, until it become discoloured with the fire. The fluid fat should be poured into the vessels, or bladders, in which it is to be preserved.

These articles had formerly a place also among the preparations of the Edinburgh college. But now they introduce them only into their list of the *materia medica*; as the apothecary will, in general, find it more for his interest to purchase them thus prepared, than to prepare them for himself; for the process requires to be very cautiously conducted, to prevent the fat from burning or turning black.

CERA FLAVA PURIFICATA. *Dub.*  
*Purified Yellow Wax.*

Take of

Yellow wax, any quantity.

Melt it with a moderate heat, remove the scum, and after allowing it to settle, pour it cautiously off from the fæces.

YELLOW wax is so often adulterated, that this process is by no means unnecessary.

LINIMENTUM SIMPLEX. *Ed.*  
*Simple Liniment.*

Take of

Olive oil, four parts;

White wax, one part.

THIS consists of the same articles which form the *Unguentum simplex* of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, but merely in a different proportion, so as to render the composition thinner; and where a thin consistence is requisite, this may be considered as a very elegant and useful application.

UNGUENTUM SIMPLEX. *Ed.*  
*Simple Ointment.*

Take of

Olive oil, five parts;

White wax, two parts.

BOTH these ointments may be used for softening the skin and healing chaps.

UNGUENTUM CETACEI. *Lond.*  
*Ointment of Spermaceti.*

Take of

Spermaceti, six drachms;

White wax, two drachms ;  
Olive oil, three fluidounces.  
Melt them together over a slow fire, and stir them constantly until they be cold.

UNGUENTUM SPERMATIS CETI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Spermaceti.*

Take of  
White wax, half a pound ;  
Spermaceti, one pound ;  
Prepared hogs lard, three pounds ;  
Make into an ointment.

THIS had formerly the name of *Linimentum album*, and it is perhaps only in consistence that it can be considered as differing from the *Unguentum simplex*, already mentioned, or the *Ceratum simplex*, afterwards to be taken notice of.

CERATUM SIMPLEX. *Ed.*  
*Simple Cerate.*

Take of  
Olive oil, six parts ;  
White wax, three parts ;  
Spermaceti, one part.

CERATUM CETACEI. *Lond.*  
*Cerate of Spermaceti.*

Take of  
Spermaceti, half an ounce ;  
White wax, two ounces ;  
Olive oil, four fluidounces.  
Add the oil to the wax and spermaceti, melted together, and stir until the cerate be cold.

THIS had formerly the name of *Ceratum album*, and it differs in nothing from the *Unguentum cetacci*, or *Linimentum album* as it was formerly called, excepting in consistence, both the wax and the spermaceti bearing a greater proportion to the oil.

CERATUM SIMPLEX. *Lond.*  
*Simple Cerate.*

Take of  
Olive oil, four fluidounces ;  
Yellow wax, four ounces.  
Add the oil to the melted wax, and mix.

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UNGUENTUM CERÆ FLAVÆ. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Yellow Wax.*

Take of  
 Purified yellow wax, a pound;  
 Prepared hogs lard, four pounds.  
 Make into an ointment.

UNGUENTUM CERÆ ALBÆ. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of White Wax,*

Is prepared in the same manner, with white wax, instead of yellow.

UNGUENTUM SAMBUCI. *Lond.*  
*Elder Ointment.*

Take of  
 Elder flowers,  
 Prepared lard, of each two pounds.  
 Boil the flowers in the lard till they become crisp; then express through linen.

*Dub.*

Take of  
 Fresh elder flowers, three pounds;  
 Prepared hogs lard, four pounds;  
 Mutton suet, two pounds.  
 Boil the flowers in the lard, until they become crisp; then strain with expression; lastly, add the suet, and melt them together.

COMPOSITIONS of this kind were formerly very frequent; but vegetables, by boiling in fats and oils, impart to them nothing but a little mucilage, which changes the greasy oils to drying oils, and any resin or volatile oil they may contain; but that also is never in such quantity as to affect the nature of the fat or fixed oil. We therefore do not suppose that this ointment possesses any properties different from a simple ointment of the same consistence, except its fragrancy.

LINIMENTUM TEREBINTHINÆ. *Lond.*  
*Turpentine Liniment.*

Take of  
 Cerate of resin, one pound;  
 Oil of turpentine, half a pint.  
 Add the oil of turpentine to the cerate melted, and mix.

MUCH used for rubbing parts affected with rheumatic pains, and on sprained joints.

CERATUM RESINÆ. *Lond.*  
*Cerate of Resin.*

Take of

Yellow resin,  
Yellow wax, of each one pound;  
Olive oil, one pint.

Melt the resin and wax together with a slow fire; then add the oil, and strain the cerate, while still hot, through linen.

UNGUENTUM RESINÆ ALBÆ. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of White Resin.*

Take of

Hogs lard, four pounds;  
White resin, two pounds;  
Yellow wax, one pound;

Make into an ointment, which is to be strained while hot, through a sieve.

UNGUENTUM RESINOSUM. *Ed.*  
*Resinous Ointment.*

Take of

Hogs lard, eight parts;  
Pine resin, five parts;  
Yellow wax, two parts.

THESE are commonly employed in dressings, for digesting, cleansing, and incarnating wounds and ulcers.

EMPLASTRUM CERÆ. *Lond.*  
*Wax Plaster.*

Take of

Yellow wax,  
Prepared suet, of each three pounds;  
Yellow resin, one pound.

Melt them together, and strain.

EMPLASTRUM SIMPLEX, olim EEMPLASTRUM CERÆUM. *Ed.*  
*Simple or Wax Plaster.*

Take of

Yellow wax, three parts;  
Mutton suet,  
Pine resin, each two parts.

THIS is chiefly used to support the discharge from a part which has been blistered, and was therefore formerly called *Emplastrum attrahens*. Sometimes, however, it irritates too much, on account of the resin; and hence, when designed

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only for dressing blisters, the resin ought to be entirely omitted, unless where a continuance of the pain and irritation, excited by the vesicatory, is required. Indeed, plasters of any kind are not very proper for dressing blisters; their consistence makes them sit uneasy, and their adhesiveness renders the taking of them off painful. Cerates, which are softer and less adhesive, appear much more eligible: the Ceratum spermatis ceti will serve for general use; and for some particular purposes, the Ceratum resinae flavæ may be applied.

UNGUENTUM ELEMI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Elemi.*

Take of

- Resin of elemi, one pound;
- White wax, half a pound;
- Prepared hogs lard, four pounds.

Make into an ointment, to be strained through a sieve while hot.

UNGUENTUM ELEMI COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*  
*Compound Ointment of Elemi.*

Take of

- Elemi, one pound;
- Turpentine, ten ounces;
- Suet, prepared, two pounds;
- Olive oil, two fluidounces.

Melt the elemi with the suet; and having removed it from the fire, mix with it immediately the turpentine and oil; after which strain the mixture through linen.

THIS ointment, formerly known by the name of *Linimentum Arcaei*, has long been used for digesting, cleansing, and incarnating, and, for these purposes, is preferred by some surgeons to all the other compositions of this kind, probably because it is more expensive.

UNGUENTUM PICIS LIQUIDÆ. *Lond.*  
*Tar Ointment.*

Take of

- Tar,
- Prepared suet, of each one pound.

Melt them together, and express through linen.

*Dub.*

Take of

- Tar,
- Mutton suet prepared, of each half a pound.

Melt them together, and strain through a sieve.

UNGUENTUM PICIS. *Ed.*  
*Tar Ointment.*

Take of  
Tar, five parts;  
Yellow wax, two parts.

THESE compositions cannot be considered as differing essentially from each other. As far as they have any peculiar activity, this entirely depends on the tar. From the empyreumatic oil and saline matters which it contains, it is undoubtedly of some activity. Accordingly, it has been successfully employed against some cutaneous affections, particularly *tinea capitis*.

UNGUENTUM RESINAE NIGRÆ. *Lond.*  
*Ointment of Pitch.*

Take of  
Pitch,  
Yellow wax,  
Yellow resin, of each nine ounces;  
Olive oil, a pint.  
Melt together, and express through linen.

EMPLASTRUM PICIS COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*  
*Compound Pitch Plaster.*

Take of  
Burgundy pitch, two pounds;  
Frankincense, one pound;  
Yellow resin,  
Yellow wax, of each four ounces;  
Expressed oil of mace, one ounce.  
To the pitch, resin, and wax, melted together, add first the frankincense, and then the oil of mace, and mix.

EMPLASTRUM CUMINI. *Lond.*  
*Cumin Plaster.*

Take of  
Cumin seeds,  
Caraway seeds,  
Bay berries, of each three ounces;  
Burgundy pitch, three pounds;  
Yellow wax, three ounces.  
Melt the pitch and wax together, and mix with them the rest of the ingredients, powdered.



THIS plaster has been recommended, as a moderately warm discutient; and is directed by some to be applied to the hypogastric region, for strengthening the viscera, and expelling flatulencies.

EMPLASTRUM AROMATICUM. *Dub.*  
*Aromatic Plaster.*

Take of

Frankincense, three ounces;  
Yellow wax, half an ounce;  
Cinnamon, in powder, six drachms;  
Essential oil of pimento,  
———— lemon, each two drachms.

Melt the frankincense and wax together, and strain; when getting stiff, from being allowed to cool, mix in the cinnamon and oils, and make a plaster.

THIS has been considered as a very elegant stomach plaster. As this kind of compositions, on account of their volatile ingredients, does not keep, it is only made occasionally, and it should be but moderately adhesive, that it may not offend the skin, and may without difficulty be frequently renewed; which such applications, in order to their producing any considerable effect, require to be.

UNGUENTUM SULPHURIS. *Lond.*  
*Sulphur Ointment.*

Take of

Sublimed sulphur, three ounces;  
Prepared lard, half a pound.

Mix.

*Ed.*

Take of

Hogs lard, four parts;  
Sublimed sulphur, one part.

To each pound of this ointment add of  
Volatile oil of lemons, or lavender, half a drachm.

*Dub.*

Take of

Prepared lard, four pounds;  
Sublimed sulphur, one pound.

Make an ointment.

UNGUENTUM SULPHURIS COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*  
*Compound Sulphur Ointment.*

Take of

Sublimed sulphur, half a pound ;  
 White hellebore root, in powder, two ounces ;  
 Nitrate of potass, one drachm ;  
 Soft soap, half a pound ;  
 Prepared lard, a pound and a half.

Mix.

SULPHUR is a certain remedy for the itch, more safe than mercury. A pound of ointment serves for four unctions. The patient is to be rubbed every night, a fourth part of the body at each time. Though the disease may be thus cured by a single application, it is in general advisable to touch the parts most affected for a few nights longer, and to conjoin with the frictions the internal use of sulphur.

UNGUENTUM ACIDI NITROSI. *Ed.*  
*Ointment of Nitrous Acid.*

Take of

Hogs lard, one pound ;  
 Nitrous acid, six drachms.

Mix the acid gradually with the melted axunge, and diligently beat the mixture as it cools.

*Dub.*

Take of

Olive oil, one pound ;  
 Prepared hogs lard, four ounces ;  
 Nitrous acid, one ounce, by weight.

Having melted the oil and lard together in a glass vessel, add the acid ; digest with a moderate heat, in a water-bath, for a quarter of an hour ; then remove them from the bath, and stir them constantly with a glass rod, until they get stiff.

THE oil and axunge in this ointment are oxidized ; for during the action of the acid upon them, there is a great deal of nitric oxide gas disengaged. It acquires a yellowish colour, and a firm consistency, and forms an efficacious and cheap substitute, in slight cutaneous affections, for the ointment of nitrate of mercury.

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UNGUENTUM INFUSI MELOES VESICATORII; olim UNGUENTUM EPISPASTICUM MITIUS. *Ed.*

*Ointment of Infusion of Cantharides, formerly called Milder Epispastic Ointment.*

Take of

Cantharides,  
Pine resin,  
Yellow wax, each one part;  
Hogs lard,  
Venice turpentine, each two parts;  
Boiling water, four parts.

Macerate the cantharides in the water for a night; then strongly press out and strain the liquor, and boil it with the lard till the water be consumed; then add the resin and wax; and, when these are melted, take the ointment off the fire, and add the turpentine.

UNGUENTUM LYTTE. *Lond.*

*Ointment of Spanish Flies.*

Take of

Spanish flies, in very fine powder, two ounces;  
Distilled water, eight fluidounces;  
Cerate of resin, eight ounces.

Boil the water with the flies to one half, and mix the cerate with the filtered liquor, and then evaporate to a proper consistence.

OINTMENTS, containing the soluble parts of the cantharides, uniformly blended with the other ingredients, are more commodious, and in general occasion less pain, though little less effectual in their action, than the compositions with the fly in substance. A very good stimulating liniment is composed by melting one part of this with half a part of camphor in powder, and three parts of turpentine.

UNGUENTUM PULVERIS MELOES VESICATORII; olim UNGUENTUM EPISPASTICUM FORTIUS. *Ed.*

*Ointment of the Powder of Spanish Flies, formerly Stronger Epispastic Ointment.*

Take of

Resinous ointment, seven parts;  
Powdered cantharides, one part.

UNGUENTUM CANTHARIDIS. *Dub.*

*Ointment of Spanish Flies.*

Take of

Ointment of yellow wax, half a pound;

Spanish flies, in powder, an ounce.  
Make into an ointment.

CERATUM LYTTÆ. *Lond.*  
*Cerate of Cantharides.*

Take of

Cerate of spermaceti, six drachms ;  
Spanish flies, in very fine powder, one drachm.  
Add the flies to the cerate, softened over the fire, and mix.

THIS ointment is employed in the dressing for blisters, intended to be made *perpetual*, as they are called, or to be kept running for a considerable time, which, in many chronic, and some acute cases, is of great service. Particular care should be taken, that the cantharides employed in these compositions be reduced into very subtile powder, and that the mixtures be made as equal and uniform as possible.

EMPLASTRUM LYTTÆ. *Lond.*  
*Plaster of Spanish Flies.*

Take of

Spanish flies, in very fine powder, one pound ;  
Wax plaster, one pound and a half ;  
Prepared hogs lard, one pound.  
Having melted the plaster and lard together, and removed them from the fire, sprinkle in the flies, a little before they become firm, and mix the whole together.

EMPLASTRUM CANTHARIDIS. *Dub.*  
*Plaster of Spanish Flies.*

Take of

Purified yellow wax,  
Mutton suet, each one pound ;  
Yellow resin, four ounces ;  
Cantharides, in fine powder, one pound.  
To the wax, suet, and resin melted together, a little before they stiffen, on being allowed to cool, mix in the cantharides, and form an ointment.

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EMPLASTRUM MELOES VESICATORII; olim EMPLASTRUM VESICATORIUM. *Ed.**Plaster of Spanish Flies, formerly Blistering Plaster.*

Take of

Mutton suet,  
 Yellow wax,  
 Pine resin,  
 Cantharides, each equal weights.

Mix the cantharides, reduced to a fine powder, with the other ingredients, previously melted, and removed from the fire.

In making these plasters, from an incautious application of heat, the cantharides sometimes lose their vesicating powers; therefore it is customary, after the blister is spread, to cover its surface with powdered cantharides. The desired effect is also more speedy and certain, if the part to which it is to be applied be well bathed with hot vinegar; and the blister is more easily removed if a bit of thin gauze be interposed between it and the skin.

EMPLASTRUM CALEFACIENS. *Dub.**Calefacient Plaster.*

Take of

Plaster of cantharides, one part;  
 Burgundy pitch, seven parts.  
 Melt together, with a moderate heat, and make into a plaster.

THIS is a very convenient plaster, being more active as a stimulant and rubefacient than the simple Burgundy pitch plaster, while it will scarcely ever raise a blister.

EMPLASTRUM MELOES VESICATORII COMPOSITUM. *Ed.**Compound Plaster of Spanish Flies.*

Take of

Venice turpentine, eighteen parts;  
 Burgundy pitch,  
 Cantharides, each twelve parts;  
 Yellow wax, four parts;  
 Subacetite of copper, two parts;  
 Mustard seed,  
 Black pepper, each one part.

Having first melted the pitch and wax, add the turpentine, and to these, in fusion, and still hot, add the other ingredients, reduced to a fine powder, and mixed, and stir the whole carefully together, so as to form a plaster.

THIS is supposed to be a most infallible blistering plaster. It certainly contains a sufficient variety of stimulating ingredients.

UNGUENTUM PIPERIS NIGRI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Black Pepper.*

Take of  
Prepared lard, one pound ;  
Black pepper, in powder, four ounces.  
Make into an ointment.

THIS is stimulating and irritating.

UNGUENTUM VERATRI. *Lond.*  
*Ointment of White Hellebore.*

Take of  
White hellebore root, in powder, two ounces ;  
Prepared hogs lard, eight ounces ;  
Oil of lemon, twenty minims.  
Mix.

UNGUENTUM HELLEBORI ALBI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of White Hellebore.*

Take of  
Prepared hogs lard, one pound ;  
White hellebore root, in powder, three ounces.  
Make into an ointment.

THIS is recommended in the itch, and other cutaneous affections.

UNGUENTUM SABINÆ. *Dub.*  
*Savine Ointment.*

Take of  
Fresh savine leaves, separated from the stalks and bruised,  
half a pound ;  
Prepared hogs lard, two pounds ;  
Yellow wax, half a pound.  
Boil the leaves in the lard until they become crisp ; then filter with expression ; lastly, add the wax, and melt them together.

CERATUM SABINÆ. *Lond.*  
*Cerate of Savine.*

Take of  
Fresh savine leaves, bruised, one pound ;

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Yellow wax, half a pound;  
 Prepared hogs lard, two pounds.  
 Boil the savine leaves with the lard and wax melted together,  
 and express through linen.

THIS is an excellent issue ointment, being in many respects preferable to those of cantharides. If fresh leaves are not to be had, it may be made by mixing the dried leaves finely powdered, with any ointment of proper consistency.

EMPLASTRUM OXIDI PLUMBI SEMIVITREI; olim EMPLASTRUM  
 COMMUNE. *Ed.*

*Plaster of the Semi-vitrified Oxide of Lead, formerly Common  
 Plaster.*

Take of

Semi-vitrified oxide of lead, one part;  
 Olive oil, two parts.  
 Boil them, adding water, and constantly stirring the mixture  
 till the oil and oxide be formed into a plaster.

EMPLASTRUM LITHARGYRI. *Dub.*  
*Litharge Plaster.*

Take of

Litharge, in very fine powder, five pounds;  
 Olive oil, nine pounds;  
 Boiling water, two pints.  
 Mix them at a high temperature, (200° to 212°), constantly  
 stirring until the oil and litharge unite, so as to form a  
 plaster, occasionally supplying the waste of the water with  
 fresh additions.

EMPLASTRUM PLUMBI. *Lond.*  
*Lead Plaster.*

Take of

Semi-vitrified oxide of lead in very fine powder, five  
 pounds;  
 Olive oil, one gallon;  
 Water, two pints.  
 Boil together with a slow fire, constantly stirring them, until  
 the oil and oxide of lead acquire by their union the thick-  
 ness of a plaster. But it will be necessary to add a little  
 more boiling water, if that employed at first be almost all  
 consumed before the end of the operation.

OXIDES of lead, boiled with oils, unite with them into a plaster of an excellent consistence, and forming a proper basis for several other plasters.

In the boiling of these compositions, a quantity of water must be added, to prevent the plaster from burning and growing black. Such water as it may be necessary to add during the boiling, must be previously made hot; for cold liquor would not only prolong the process, but likewise occasion the matter to explode, and be thrown about with violence, to the great danger of the operator: this accident will equally happen upon the addition of hot water, if the plaster be extremely hot. It is therefore better to remove it from the fire a little before each addition of water.

These plasters, which have been long known under the name of Diachylon, are common applications in excoriations of the skin, slight flesh wounds, and the like. They keep the part soft and somewhat warm, and defend it from the air, which is all that can be expected in these cases from any plaster.

EMPLASTRUM RESINOSUM; olim EMPLASTRUM ADHÆSIVUM.  
*Ed.*

*Resinous Plaster, formerly Adhesive Plaster.*

Take of

Plaster of semi-vitrified oxide of lead, five parts;  
Pine resin, one part.

EMPLASTRUM LITHARGYRI CUM RESINA. *Dub.*  
*Litharge Plaster with Resin.*

Take of

Litharge plaster, three pounds and a half;  
Yellow resin, half a pound.

To the litharge plaster melted with a moderate heat, add the resin, reduced to a very fine powder, that it may melt quickly, and make a plaster.

EMPLASTRUM RESINÆ. *Lond.*  
*Plaster of Resin.*

Take of

Yellow resin, half a pound;  
Lead plaster, three pounds.

Add the resin, in powder, to the lead plaster, melted with a slow fire, and mix.

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THESE plasters are used as adhesives, for keeping on other dressings; for retaining the edges of recent wounds together when we are endeavouring to cure them by the first intention, and especially for giving mechanical support to new flesh; and contracting the size of ulcers, in the manner recommended by Mr Baynton, for the cure of ulcers of the legs, a mode of treatment so efficacious, that it has entirely changed the character of these sores.

EMPLASTRUM ASSÆ FETIDÆ. *Ed.*  
*Plaster of Assafœtida.*

Take of

Plaster of semi-vitrified oxide of lead;  
Assafœtida, each two parts;  
Galbanum,  
Yellow wax, each one part.

THIS plaster is applied to the umbilical region, or over the whole abdomen, in hysteric cases; and sometimes with good effect.

EMPLASTRUM GUMMOSUM. *Ed.*  
*Gum Plaster.*

Take of

Plaster of semi-vitrified oxide of lead, eight parts;  
Gum ammoniacum,  
Galbanum,  
Yellow wax, each one part.

EMPLASTRUM AMMONIACI. *Lond.*  
*Plaster of Ammoniac.*

Take of

Strained gum ammoniac, five ounces;  
Acetic acid, half a pint.

Dissolve the ammoniac in the vinegar, then evaporate the solution in an iron pot, by the heat of a water-bath, stirring it constantly till it acquire a proper thickness.

EMPLASTRUM GALBANI. *Dub.*  
*Plaster of Galbanum.*

Take of

Plaster of litharge, two pounds;  
Galbanum, half a pound;  
Yellow wax, sliced, four ounces.

Add the plaster and wax to the galbanum, melted, and then melt the whole together with a moderate heat.

EMPLASTRUM GALBANI COMPOSITUM. *Lond.*  
*Compound Plaster of Galbanum.*

Take of

Strained galbanum, eight ounces ;  
 Plaster of lead, three pounds ;  
 Turpentine, ten drachms ;  
 Frankincense, in powder, three ounces.

With the galbanum and turpentine melted together, mix first the frankincense, and afterwards the litharge plaster, melted also with a very slow fire, and make a plaster.

ALL these plasters are used as digestives and suppuratives ; particularly in abscesses, after a part of the matter has been matured and discharged, for suppurating or discussing the induration which remains.

EMPLASTRUM OPII. *Lond.*  
*Plaster of Opium.*

Take of

Hard opium, in powder, half an ounce ;  
 Frankincense, in powder, three ounces ;  
 Lead plaster, one pound.

Add the opium and frankincense to the melted plaster, and mix.

OPIUM plaster is applied in rheumatism and other local pains, and is supposed to act by absorption.

CERATUM SAPONIS. *Lond.*  
*Soap Cerate.*

Take of

Hard soap, eight ounces ;  
 Yellow wax, ten ounces ;  
 Semi-vitrified oxide of lead, powdered, one pound ;  
 Olive oil, one pint ;  
 Vinegar, one gallon.

Boil the vinegar with the oxide of lead, over a slow fire, constantly stirring, until they unite ; then add the soap, and repeat the boiling in the same manner, until the moisture be entirely evaporated ; and, lastly, mix with them the wax previously melted in the oil.

THIS acts in reality as a saturnine application, the soap having only the effect of giving a very convenient degree of adhesiveness.

B

EMPLASTRUM SAPONIS. *Lond. Dub.*  
*Soda Plaster.*

Take of

Hard soap, sliced, half a pound ;

Lead plaster, three pounds.

Mix the soap with the melted plaster, and boil them to the thickness of a plaster.

EMPLASTRUM SAPONACEUM. *Ed.*  
*Saponaceous Plaster.*

Take of

Plaster of semi-vitrified oxide of lead, four parts ;

Gum plaster, two parts ;

Soap, sliced, one part.

To the plasters, melted together, add the soap ; then boil for a little, so as to form a plaster.

THESE are supposed to be mild discutients.

UNGUENTUM OXIDI PLUMBI ALBI ; vulgo UNGUENTUM ALBUM. *Ed.*

*Ointment of White Oxide of Lead, formerly White Ointment.*

Take of

Simple ointment, five parts ;

White oxide of lead, one part.

UNGUENTUM CERUSÆ sive SUBACETATIS PLUMBI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Ceruse, or of Subacetate of Lead.*

Take of

Ointment of white wax, one pound ;

Ceruse, in very fine powder, two ounces.

Make into an ointment.

THIS is a cooling desiccative ointment of great use when applied to excoriated surfaces.

UNGUENTUM ACETITIS PLUMBI ; vulgo UNGUENTUM SATURNINUM. *Ed.*

*Ointment of Acetate of Lead, formerly Saturnine Ointment.*

Take of

Simple ointment, twenty parts ;

Acetite of lead, one part.

UNGUENTUM ACETATIS PLUMBI. *Dub.**Ointment of Acetate of Lead.*

Take of

Ointment of white wax, one pound and a half;

Acetate of lead, one ounce.

Make into an ointment.

CERATUM PLUMBI SUPERACETATIS. *Lond.**Cerate of Superacetate of Lead.*

Take of

Superacetate of lead, in powder, two drachms;

White wax, two ounces;

Olive oil, half a pint.

Melt the wax in seven fluidounces of the oil, and gradually add to these the superacetate of lead, separately triturated with the rest of the oil, and stir the mixture with a wooden spatula until they unite.

THESE are also excellent cooling ointments, of the greatest use in many cases.

CERATUM PLUMBI COMPOSITUM. *Lond.**Compound Cerate of Lead.*

Take of

Solution of subacetate of lead, two fluidounces and a half;

Yellow wax, four ounces;

Olive oil, nine fluidounces;

Camphor, half a drachm.

Mix the melted wax with eight fluidounces of the oil, then remove from the fire; and as soon as the mixture begins to thicken, pour in, by degrees, the solution of subacetate of lead, and stir constantly, with a wooden spatula, until it be cold; then mix in the camphor, previously melted in the rest of the oil.

THIS composition was much recommended by M. Goulard. It differs from the other saturnine ointments only in consistence.

## UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI; vulgo UNGUENTUM COERULEUM.

*Ed.**Ointment of Quicksilver, commonly called Blue Ointment.*

Take of

Quicksilver,

Mutton suet, each one part;

Hogs lard, three parts.

B

Rub the mercury carefully in a mortar with a little of the hogs lard, until the globules entirely disappear; then add the rest of the fats.

THIS ointment may also be made with double or triple the quantity of quicksilver.

*Dub.*

Take of

Purified quicksilver,  
Prepared hogs lard, equal weights.

Triturate them together in a marble or iron mortar, until the globules of quicksilver disappear.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI MITIUS. *Dub.*

*Milder Ointment of Quicksilver,*

Is made with twice the quantity of lard.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI FORTIUS. *Lond.*

*Stronger Mercurial Ointment.*

Take of

Purified quicksilver, two pounds;  
Prepared hogs lard, twenty-three ounces;  
Prepared mutton suet, one ounce.

First triturate the quicksilver with the suet and a little of the hogs lard, until the globules be extinguished; then add the rest of the lard, and mix.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI MITIUS. *Lond.*

*Milder Mercurial Ointment.*

Take of

The stronger ointment of quicksilver, one pound;  
Hogs lard, prepared, two pounds.

Mix them.

LINIMENTUM HYDRARGYRI. *Lond.*

*Liniment of Mercury.*

Take of

Stronger mercurial ointment,  
Prepared lard, of each four ounces;  
Camphor, one ounce;  
Rectified spirit, fifteen minims;  
Water of ammonia, four fluidounces.

First rub the camphor with the spirit, then with the lard and mercurial ointment, lastly, having gradually added the water of ammonia, mix all the ingredients together.

UNGUENTUM OXIDI HYDRARGYRI CINEREI. *Ed.**Ointment of Grey Oxide of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Grey oxide of quicksilver, one part ;  
Hogs lard, three parts.

THESE ointments are principally employed, not with a view to their topical action, but with the intention of introducing mercury in an active state into the circulating system, which may be effected by gentle friction on the sound skin of any part, particularly on the inside of the thighs or legs. For this purpose, these simple ointments are much better suited than the more compounded ones, with turpentine and the like, formerly employed ; for, by any acrid substance, topical inflammation is apt to be excited, preventing further friction, and giving much uneasiness. To avoid this, it is necessary, even with the mildest and weakest ointment, to change occasionally the place at which the friction is performed.

It is requisite that the ointments in which the mercury is extinguished by trituration should be prepared with very great care ; for upon the degree of triture which has been employed, the activity of the mercury very much depends. The addition of the mutton-suet, now adopted by London and Edinburgh, is an advantage to the ointment, as it prevents it from running into the state of oil, which the hogs lard alone, in warm weather, or in a warm chamber, is sometimes apt to do, and which is followed by a separation of its constituent parts. We are even inclined to think, that the proportion of suet, directed by the London college, is too small for this purpose, and, indeed, seems to be principally intended for the more effectual triture of the mercury ; but it is much more to be regretted, that in a medicine of such activity, the colleges should not have directed the same proportion of mercury to the fatty matter.

EMPLASTRUM HYDRARGYRI. *Ed.**Plaster of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Olive oil,  
Pine resin, each one part ;  
Quicksilver, three parts ;  
Plaster of semi-vitrified oxide of lead, six parts.

Melt the oil and resin together, and when this mixture is cold, let the quicksilver be rubbed with it till the globules disappear ; then add, by degrees, the litharge plaster, melted, and let the whole be accurately mixed.

B

EMPLASTRUM HYDRARGYRI. *Lond.*  
*Plaster of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Purified quicksilver, three ounces ;  
Sulphuretted oil, one fluidrachm ;  
Litharge plaster, one pound.

Triturate the quicksilver with the sulphuretted oil until the globules disappear ; then gradually add the lead plaster melted, and mix the whole together.

EMPLASTRUM AMMONIACI CUM HYDRARGYRO. *Lond. Dub.*  
*Plaster of Gum Ammoniac with Quicksilver.*

Take of

Gum ammoniac, strained, one pound ;  
Purified quicksilver, three ounces ;  
(Sulphuretted oil, a fluidrachm, *Lond.*)  
(Turpentine, two drachms, *Dub.*)Triturate the quicksilver with the sulphuretted oil, (turpentine, *Dub.*) until its globules disappear ; then gradually add the gum ammoniac, melted, and mix them.

THESE mercurial plasters are considered as powerful resolvants and discutients, acting with much greater certainty for these intentions than any composition of vegetable substances alone ; the mercury exerting itself in a considerable degree, and being sometimes introduced into the habit in such quantity as to affect the mouth. Syphilitic pains in the joints and limbs, nodes, tophi, and beginning indurations, are said to yield to them sometimes.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI PRÆCIPITATI ALBI. *Lond.*  
*Ointment of White Precipitated Quicksilver.*

Take of

White precipitated quicksilver, one drachm ;  
Prepared lard, one ounce and a half.

Add the precipitated quicksilver to the lard, melted with a slow fire, and mix.

UNGUENTUM SUBMURIATIS HYDRARGYRI AMMONIATI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Ammoniated Submuriate of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Ointment of white wax, one pound ;  
Ammoniated submuriate of quicksilver, an ounce and a half.

Make into an ointment.

THIS is a very elegant mercurial ointment, and frequently made use of in the cure of obstinate cutaneous affections.

UNGUENTUM OXIDI HYDRARGYRI RUBRI. *Ed.*  
*Ointment of Red Oxide of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Red oxide of quicksilver by nitrous acid, one part;  
Hogs lard, eight parts.

UNGUENTUM SUBNITRATIS HYDRARGYRI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Subnitrate of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Ointment of white wax, half a pound;  
Subnitrate of quicksilver, half an ounce.  
Make into an ointment.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRICO-OXYDI. *Lond.*  
*Ointment of Nitric-oxide of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Nitric-oxide of quicksilver, one ounce;  
White wax, two ounces;  
Prepared lard, six ounces.  
Add the nitric-oxide, in very fine powder, to the wax and lard, previously melted together, and mix.

THE oxide should be reduced to very fine powder before it be added to the axunge. This is an excellent stimulating ointment, often of very great service in indolent ill-conditioned sores, when we wish to excite them to greater action. As an eye-ointment, its effects are most remarkable, in the cure of all inflammations of the tunica conjunctiva, and more particularly when there is a thickening and swelling of the inner membrane of the palpebrae. In such cases, it seems to act with much greater certainty, if applied immediately after the eyelids have been scarified. In inflammation, accompanied with specks, it has a most powerful effect in removing both. It is also useful in all those ophthalmias which so frequently appear after small pox, measles, and eruptive diseases of the hairy scalp. It is used in the same quantity, and in the same manner as the Unguentum nitratiss hydrargyri; and if it prove too stimulating, it may be diluted with axunge. It is useful to know that if it be mixed with any ointment containing resin, the red oxide is very quickly converted into the black, and the ointment gradually loses its red colour, and passes through olive-green to black.



UNGUENTUM SUPERNITRATIS HYDRARGYRI. *Dub.*  
*Ointment of Supernitrate of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Distilled quicksilver, one ounce;  
 Nitrous acid, by weight, two ounces;  
 Olive oil, one pint;  
 Prepared hogs lard, four ounces.

Dissolve the quicksilver in the acid; mix the solution with the oil and lard, melted together, and make into an ointment, in the same manner as the ointment of nitrous acid.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRATIS. *Lond.*  
*Ointment of Nitrate of Quicksilver.*

Take of

Purified quicksilver, one ounce;  
 Nitric acid, eleven fluidrachms;  
 Prepared hogs lard, six ounces;  
 Olive oil, four fluidounces.

First dissolve the quicksilver in the acid, and then mix the solution, while hot, with the lard and oil previously melted together.

UNGUENTUM NITRATIS HYDRARGYRI FORTIUS; vulgo UN-  
 GUENTUM CIIRINUM. *Ed.*  
*Stronger Ointment of Nitrate of Quicksilver, commonly called*  
*Citrine Ointment.*

Take of

Purified quicksilver, one part;  
 Nitrous acid, two parts;  
 Olive oil, nine parts;  
 Hogs lard, three parts.

Dissolve the quicksilver in the acid; then beat up the solution in a glass mortar, with the lard and oil when getting stiff, after having been melted together, until an ointment be formed.

UNGUENTUM NITRATIS HYDRARGYRI MITIUS. *Ed.*  
*Milder Ointment of Nitrate of Quicksilver.*

This is prepared in the same way (as the Ointment of nitrate of quicksilver), with three times the quantity of oil and hogs lard.

THIS ointment, when prepared with lard alone, soon becomes so very hard, that it is necessary to mix it with fresh axunge before it can be used. The substitution of the oil for

part of the axunge obviates, in a great measure, this inconvenience. The hardening is entirely owing to the excess of the acid in the solution of mercury. Hence the London college have acted in 1809 very inconsiderately in increasing the quantity of nitrous acid, from two ounces by weight to two fluidounces, which caused, as Mr Phillips found, violent action, and the evolution of much noxious vapour, when the solution of mercury is mixed with the axunge, and renders the ointment extremely corrosive. They have in 1815 corrected this error: But the property which nitrate of mercury, prepared by ebullition, has, of being decomposed by water, furnished me with an easy way of getting rid of all excess of acid, and of procuring the subnitrate of mercury in the state of the most minute division possible. An ointment, prepared with this subnitrate, had a most beautiful golden colour; after six months was perfectly soft; and had all the properties desired.

When the citrine ointment is too hard, it should be softened by triturating it with lard or oil; for, if melted with them, it very soon hardens again.

*Medical use.*—This ointment has the very best effects in herpes, tinea capitis, and similar obstinate cutaneous affections, and is almost specific in psorophthalmia, in those slight excoriations of the tarsi, attended with extreme itching, and in all the inflammations of the eyes, attended by eruptive disorders of the hairy scalp or face. It is most conveniently and effectually used, by rubbing a piece of the size of half a garden pea, with the point of a hair pencil, over the tarsi, among the roots of the ciliæ, and allowing a small quantity to get on the inner membrane of the palpebræ. In obstinate cases, a weak solution of muriate of mercury, used as a collyrium along with this ointment, proves a most powerful remedy.

UNGUENTUM SUBACETITIS CUPRI. *Ed.*

*Ointment of Subacetite of Copper.*

Take of

Resinous ointment, fifteen parts;

Subacetite of copper, one part.

UNGUENTUM AERUGINIS. *Dub.*

*Ointment of Verdigris.*

Take of

Ointment of white resin, one pound;

Prepared verdegriis, half an ounce.

Make into an ointment.

THIS ointment is used for cleansing sores, and keeping down fungous flesh. Where ulcers continue to run from a weakness in the vessels of the parts, the tonic powers of copper promise considerable advantage.

It is also frequently used with advantage in cases of ophthalmia, depending on scrofula, where the palpebræ are principally affected; but when it is to be thus applied, it is, in general, requisite that it should be somewhat weakened by the addition of a proportion of simple ointment or hogs lard.

UNGUENTUM OXIDI ZINCI IMPURI. *Ed.*

*Ointment of Impure Oxide of Zinc.*

Take of

Simple liniment, five parts;

Prepared impure oxide of zinc, one part.

UNGUENTUM TUTIÆ. *Dub.*

*Ointment of Tutty.*

Take of

Ointment of white wax, ten ounces;

Prepared tutty, two ounces.

Make into an ointment.

UNGUENTUM OXIDI ZINCI. *Ed.*

*Ointment of Oxide of Zinc.*

Take of

Simple liniment, six parts;

Oxide of zinc, one part.

*Dub.*

Take of

Ointment of white wax, one pound;

Oxide of zinc, an ounce and a half.

Make into an ointment.

UNGUENTUM ZINCI. *Lond.*

*Ointment of Zinc.*

Take of

Oxide of zinc, one ounce;

Prepared lard, six ounces;

Mix.

THESE ointments are chiefly used in affections of the eye, particularly in those cases where redness arises rather from relaxation than from active inflammation.

CERATUM CARBONATIS ZINCI IMPURI; olim CERATUM LAPIDIS CALAMINARIS. *Ed.*

*Cerate of Impure Carbonate of Zinc, formerly Cerate of Calamine.*

Take of

- Simple cerate, five parts;
- Prepared impure carbonate of zinc, one part.

CERATUM CALAMINÆ. *Lond.*

*Cerate of Calamine.*

Take of

- Calamine, prepared,
- Yellow wax, of each half a pound;
- Olive oil, one pint.

Mix the oil with the melted wax, then remove from the fire; and, as soon as the mixture begins to thicken, add the calamine, and stir the cerate constantly until it be cold.

UNGUENTUM CALAMINARIS. *Dub.*

*Calamine Ointment.*

Take of

- Ointment of yellow wax, five pounds;
- Prepared calamine, one pound.

Make into an ointment.

THESE compositions resemble the cerate which Turner strongly recommends in cutaneous ulcerations and excoriations, and which has been usually distinguished by his name. They appear, from experience, to be excellent epulotics; and, as such, are frequently made use of in practice.

EMPLASTRUM OXIDI FERRI RUBRI; olim EMPLASTRUM ROBORANS. *Ed.*

*Plaster of Red Oxide of Iron, commonly called Strengthening Plaster.*

Take of

- Plaster of semi-vitrified oxide of lead, twenty-four parts;
- Pine resin, six parts;
- Yellow wax,
- Olive oil, each three parts;
- Red oxide of iron, eight parts.

Grind the red oxide of iron with the oil, and then add it to the other ingredients, previously melted.

B

EMPLASTRUM THURIS. *Dub.**Plaster of Frankincense.*

Take of

Plaster of litharge, two pounds ;  
 Frankincense, half a pound ;  
 Red oxide of iron, three ounces.

Sprinkle the oxide into the plaster and frankincense, melted together, stirring the mixture at the same time, and make into a plaster.

THIS plaster is used in weakness of the large muscles, as of the loins ; and its effects seem to proceed from the mechanical support given to the part, which may also be done by any other plaster that adheres with equal firmness.