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SECTION XVIII.  
PLAISTERS.

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Emplastrum Adhæsivum.

*Sticking Plaister.*

**T**Ake of simple Diachylon, two pounds ;  
of *Burgundy* Pitch, a pound ; and melt  
them together, so as to make a Plaister\*.

Emplastrum Anodynum rubrum.

*The red, Anodyne Plaister.*

Take of yellow Wax, Gum-Elemi, and  
*Burgundy* Pitch, each six ounces ; of Colo-  
phony, four ounces ; of *Bole-Armeniac*, and  
red Lead, each half an ounce ; of Mastich, O-  
libanum, Petreol, and liquid Storax, each six  
drams ; of Saffron, two drams ; and of *Venice*  
Turpentine, an ounce : mix them all together,

\* This is a simple composition, but answers the in-  
tention well.

and

and make a Plaister thereof, according to the rules of art\*.

Emplastrum Antihystericum.

*Antihysteric Plaister.*

Take of Galbanum, twelve ounces; of Tacamahac, and yellow Wax, each six ounces; of *Assa fætida*, four ounces; of the leaves of Rue, the Flowers of Fever-few, and the Seeds of Cummin, each two ounces; of Turpentine, five ounces: mix them together, and make a Plaister according to art; observing to reduce the Herbs and Seed to powder †.

Emplastrum de Betonica.

*Plaister of Betony.*

Take of the Leaves of fresh Betony, Smal-lage, of the Bay-tree, of Plantain, and of Sage, each an ounce and half; of Beef-suet, two pounds; bruise the Herbs well, and boil them over a gentle fire, with the Suet, till their moisture is consumed; then press out all that will run, and add thereto of yellow Wax,

\* As this is questionless innocent, so it appears to be an effectual plaister for the purpose expressed by its title.

† Much more is to be expected from this composition, than the bare application of a Galbanum-Plaister, to the navel in hysteric cases.



Gum-Elemi, Rosin of the Pine-tree, and Turpentine, each two pounds; melt them all together, and, before they cool, sprinkle the following powders therein; *viz.* of Mastich and Olibanum, each two ounces; and make a Plaister thereof, according to the rules of art\*.

Emplastrum Cephalicum.

*Cephalic Plaister.*

Take of Tacamahac, two ounces; of Labdanum, and solid Storax, each half an ounce; of yellow Wax, three ounces; of white Rosin, an ounce; of Myrrh, and Castor, each two drams; of Venice Turpentine, three ounces; of the distill'd Oil of Lavender, and that of Amber, each a dram: mix them all together, and make a Plaister thereof, according to the rules of art. But observe to add the distill'd Oils to the other ingredients, after they are removed from the fire, and become almost cold †.

\* This prescription rejects several useles circumstances and ingredients, that are still retain'd in the *Emplastrum de Beronica* of the London Dispensatory; and contrives the whole in a much better manner.

† This appears to be an incomparably better plaister, to apply to the head and feet, in cephalic and nervous cases, than the *Emplastrum Cephalicum* of the London Dispensatory, prescribed for the same purpose: The addition of the Castor, the distill'd Oils of Lavender, and of Amber, here, instead of the Bean-meal, the Vetch-meal, and the Pigeon's-dung there; shews the sagacity of the compilers.

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Emplastrum de Cicuta cum Ammoniaco.

*Plaster of Hemlock with Gum-Ammoniac.*

Take of Gum-Ammoniac, half a pound, and dissolve it in a sufficient quantity of Vinegar of Squills; add to the solution, four ounces of the Juice of the leaves of Hemlock; strain the whole, and boil it into a Plaster.

Emplastrum Defensivum.

*Defensive Plaster.*

Take of the Juices of Shepherd's-purse, Knot-grass, Horse-tail, Yarrow, Plantain, the greater House-leek, common Nightshade, and the greater Comfrey, each half a pint; of Oil-Olive, three pints; of Hog's-lard, two pounds; of Litharge of Gold, two pounds and a half; and of red Lead, half a pound: boil them up together, almost to the consistence of a Plaster, and dissolve therein of yellow Wax, and white Rosin, each four ounces; then add of Olibanum, and Venice Turpentine, each four ounces; as also the following ingredients reduced to Powder; *viz.* of Bole-Armeniac, a pound; of the greater Comfrey-Root, Pomegranate-Bark, Balauftines, Mastich, Dragon's-Blood, and red Saunders, each two ounces: mix them, and make thereof a Plaster, according to the rules of art\*.

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\* There is a good deal of trouble required in the making of this plaster; particularly in the expression of the



Emplastrum Diachylôn \* Simplex.

*Simple Diachylon.*

Take of the Oil of Mucilages, four pounds ; of Litharge of Gold, a pound and half ; and boil them up to a Plaister ||.

Emplastrum Diachylôn cum Gummi.

*Diachylon with Gums.*

Take of the Oil of Mucilages, four pounds ; of Litharge of Gold, two pounds ; and boil them almost to the consistence of a Plaister ; then add thereto of Gum Ammoniac and Galbanum, each four ounces ; of Opopanax and Sagapenum, each two ounces ; of yellow Wax, and *Venice* Turpentine, each half a pound ;

juices ; part whereof, at least, may seem needless ; as the same ingredients might, perhaps, to better advantage be added in powder. However, as it stands, 'tis certainly a good composition, for the end proposed to be answered by it.

\* The word implies a composition of Juices, from *δια* of, and *χυλος* Juice.

|| This is readily and commodiously done, if the Oil of Mucilages be, as it ought, kept ready prepared ; but the rule given at the end of this *Section*, for the making of plaisters, must be here observed ; for if you attempt to boil this plaister, without the addition of water, the whiteness, for which it is valued, will presently be lost.

and

and boil them into a Plaister according to art †.

Emplastrum Diapalmæ dictum.

*Diapalma.*

Take of Litharge of Gold, and of Oil-Olive, each three pounds; of Hog's-lard, two pounds; and boil them together, keeping them continually stirring \* till they become a Plaister; to which if there be added four ounces of burnt *Chalcitis*, or calcined white Vitriol, it becomes the *Emplastrum Diachalciteos*, or Vitriol-Plaister †.

Emplastrum Epispasticum.

*Blistering-Plaister.*

Take of Melilot Plaister, and *Burgundy* Pitch, each half a pound; of *Venice* Turpentine, and *Cantharides*, each five ounces: mix them together, and make them into a Plaister according to art; but observe to reduce the *Can-*

† The change of *Bdellium* for *Opopanax* in this prescription, seems to be rather for the better.

\* The ridiculous circumstance of stirring this plaister with a palm-tree stick, which is supposed to have given it the name of *Diapalma*, is here omitted.

‡ *Chalcitis*, or Brass-stone, is a species of Vitriol. See the note upon it, among minerals, in the Catalogue of Simples.

*tharides*



*tharides* to very fine Powder \*, and add them to the other ingredients first melted together.

Emplastrum ad Herniam.

*Rupture-Plaster.*

Take of Balaustines, Galls, Cypress Nuts, Myrtle Berries, Pomegranate Rind, Oak Bark, Plantain Seed, and Sumach, each six drams; reduce them to powder, and let them steep, for four days, in a sufficient quantity of Vinegar; then dry them with a gentle heat, and add there-

\* By the particular caution here given, of reducing the *Cantharides* to very fine powder, which is contrary to the common practice among us, the learned compilers doubtless intend something more than to conceal the chief ingredient in the composition; as by this means is done by some who sell what they call *Perpetual Blistering Plaster*. As these flies abound with a certain corrosive salt, whereto their epispastic virtue seems principally owing; it is doubtless best to bring as many of their parts as possible into immediate contact with the skin, to be affected by their application; whence also their stimulus will be the greater upon the body: and this end I conceive the learned gentlemen propose to forward, by here ordering the cantharides in very fine powder. Another caution too, it may be proper to observe in the making of this plaster, whereon so much depends, and that is, not to add the fine powder of the flies to the other ingredients, whilst they remain scalding hot; for in all probability this would cause some of their fine, pungent, volatile, and tho' animal, yet caustic Salt to evaporate, and be lost to the plaster; which, for the same reason, ought not to be spread with too hot a spatula.

to the following powders ; *viz.* of the greater Comfrey, the Leaves of Horse-tail, Aloes, Mastich, Myrrh, Mummy, and Frankincense, each two ounces ; of Bole-Armeniac, Calamine, Litharge of Gold, and Dragon's-Blood, each three ounces : all the preceding Powders being mix'd, let them be put to the following ingredients, melted together ; *viz.* solid Pitch, two pounds ; yellow Wax, and Turpentine, each a pound ; and make all into a Plaister, with the requisite art \*.

Emplastrum è Meliloto.

*Melilot Plaister.*

Take of the fresh Herb Melilot, three pounds ; bruise it well, put it into four pounds of melted Beef-suet, and boil them together till the Herb becomes almost crisp † ; then strongly press out the Suet, and add thereto six pounds of white Rosin, and three pounds of yellow Wax ; boiling them a little together, so as to make a Plaister.

\* To mend the consistence of this plaister, as ordered in the *London Dispensatory*, and fit it for separate use, *Dr. Quincy* directs the Litharge to be boiled up with Oil to a *Diachylon* ; but this prescription, by well adjusting the quantity of Turpentine, and adding a suitable proportion of wax, hath guarded against the bad consistence, as it has otherwise improved the composition, of the medicine.

† Thus may the *Serum Meliloti* be made, and kept in readines for the plaister at any time.

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## Emplastrum Mercuriale.

*Mercurial Plaster.*

Take of simple Diachylon, a pound; of Gum-Ammoniac, half a pound; melt them together; then add half a pound of Quick-silver; an ounce of *Venice Turpentine*; and an ounce and half of liquid Storax, which are to be first thoroughly mixed together in a mortar, till the Quick-silver no longer remains discernible †.

## Emplastrum de Minio simplex.

*Simple red Lead Plaster.*

Take of red Lead, a pound; of Oil-Olive, a pound and half; and of Vinegar, half a pint; and boil them together over a slow fire, so as to make a Plaster\*.

## Emplastrum de Minio cum Sapone.

*Red Lead Plaster with Soap.*

This is made by adding to the simple red

† This is an excellent prescription; the Gum Ammoniac, and the liquid Storax add considerably to its discutient and suppurating virtues; which are what we principally require in a mercurial plaster.

\* The plaster will become brown or black, before it comes to its due consistence, or the vinegar is evaporated; this being a more powerful solvent for all preparations of lead, than water, with which the minium may be boiled red.

Lead

Lead Plaister, when taken off the fire, whilst it yet remains hot, after the exhalation of the moisture, half a pound of *Venice Soap*, thin slic'd; and stirring them forcibly together, so as to dissolve the Soap, and make a Plaister according to art\*.

*Emplastrum de Mucilagibus, seu Diachylon compositum.*

*Mucilage Plaister, or Compound Diachylon.*

Take of the Oil of Mucilages, six ounces; of yellow Wax, twenty ounces; of Gum Ammoniac, Galbanum, Opopanax, and Sagapenum, each half an ounce; of Saffron, in powder, two drams; of Turpentine, two ounces: mix them together, and make a Plaister, according to the rules of art †.

*Emplastrum Oxycroceum.*

*Oxycroceum.* ||

Take of yellow Wax, Cotophony, and com-

\* This differs only in the proportion of the ingredients from the *Emplastrum de Sapone* of the *London Dispensatory*.

† The keeping the Oil of Mucilages ready prepared, greatly lessens the trouble, otherwise found in making this plaister.

|| The name *Oxycroceum* implies a composition of Vinegar and Saffron; tho' no Vinegar be here used: but in other Dispensatories the Gums are ordered to be dissolved therein.

mon



mon Pitch, each half a pound; melt them over a gentle fire, and add of Gum-Ammoniac, Galbanum, and *Venice* Turpentine, each three ounces; and afterwards sprinkle in the following powders; *viz.* of Mastich, Myrrh, Olibanum, and Saffron, each two ounces; mix all together, and make a plaister thereof, according to art.

Emplastrum Stomachicum.

*Stomach Plaister.*

Take of yellow Wax, half a pound, Gum-Caranna, Tacamahac, and liquid Storax, of each three ounces; Oil of Camomile, half a pound; and *Venice* Turpentine, four ounces: dissolve them all together; then add the following ingredients, reduced to powder; *viz.* of Bayberries, two ounces, of Galangal Root, and Cummin Seed, each an ounce; of the Leaves of common Wormwood, and Mint, each six drams; of Cloves and Cubebs, each half an ounce: mix them, and make thereof a Plaister according to art\*.

\* The *Emplastrum Stomachicum Magistrale* of the *London Dispensatory*, tho' somewhat faulty in its composition, seems preferable to this; as better answering the intention of warming and corroborating the stomach, invigorating the parts whereto 'tis applied, and refreshing the spirits by its grateful aromatic odour. The ingredients in that are too numerous, and some admitted which contribute little or nothing to the intention; but in retaining the essential Oil of Mint, the *Oleum Nardivum*, and the *Oleum Spice*, it certainly deserves the preference.

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## Emplastrum Volatile.

*Volatile Plaister.*

Take of *Venice Turpentine*, an ounce ; grind it in a mortar, gradually pouring there- to an ounce of spirit of *Sal-Ammoniac* ; and when they are thoroughly incorporated, add to them by degrees, half an ounce of *Tacamahac*, in powder ; and mix them together\*.

GENERAL RULES for the making  
of OINTMENTS and PLAISTERS.

I. *Such Ointments and Plaisters as have plants in their composition, are to be boiled till the herb becomes almost crisp ; with care to avoid their turning black † ; then, after*

\* The virtue of this plaister seems principally to depend upon the spirit of *Sal-Ammoniac* ; which, applied in this form, must act as a strong stimulus ; and by the corrugations it causes of the fibres, tend to dislodge any impacted matter that clogs up the pores, and hinders the natural functions of the part. The spirit of *Sal-Ammoniac* here design'd, is that prepared with salt of *Tartar* ; which alone is hereafter ordered in this Dispensatory : whoever desires to have the character and medicinal uses of that Spirit, may find them in *Boerhaave's New Method of Chemistry*, p. 202, 203. PRACT. as also in *Quincy's Dispensatory*, p. 303, 304.

† Which they will presently do, if continued boiling after the aqueous moisture of the Herb is once totally exhaled.

*straining,*



*straining, they are again to be set over the fire, to evaporate all their moisture: Consequently the plants must be fresh-gather'd, succulent, and well bruised, unless they are ordered dry.*

II. *The metalline powders are to be first boiled with the oily or fat ingredients, till they thoroughly incorporate; but Plaisters require to be mix'd with Spring-water \* till they become of the proper consistence. Gums, which are readily dissolvable, as also Powders and Turpentine, are to be added towards the end of the operation.*

III. *Ointments as well as Plaisters are not to be all made of the same consistence; the softer Plaisters come under the name of Cerates, and ought to be kept in Gally-pots or Bladders; as those of a more solid nature are formed into rolls. But the composition of both is so various, that particular rules are generally added to direct the artist.*

\* *Observe never to add cold Water to a pan of boiling plaister; for this might prove of dangerous consequence, by throwing the scalding composition around with great violence; but when water is required, let it be put in hot, or in the state of boiling, and then no mischief need be feared.*

C H E.