

kept in closely covered pots, as it soon loses its virtue by exposure to the air.

Savine ointment, which was first described by Mr. Crowther¹, is well calculated for keeping up a purulent discharge from a blistered surface; which it does as effectually, and with much less irritation than the ointment of blistering flies. A white coat is apt to form on the discharging surface, and must be removed occasionally so as to allow the cerate to be applied to the sore.

CERATUM SAPONIS. Lond. *Cerate of Soap.*

“Take of hard soap, *eight ounces*; yellow wax, *ten ounces*; semivitreous oxide of lead powdered, *a pound*; olive oil, *a pint*; vinegar, *a gallon*. Boil the vinegar on the oxide of lead over a slow fire, stirring diligently until they incorporate; then add the soap, and boil again in a similar manner, until the moisture be entirely evaporated; lastly, mix with the oil the wax previously melted.”

The efficacy of this cerate evidently depends on the acetate of lead which is formed in the first stage of the process, the soap answering scarcely any other purpose than to give consistence and adhesiveness. It is occasionally used as a cooling dressing:

UNGUENTA.

OINTMENTS.

THESE are unctuous substances of nearly the same nature as cerates, but having a consistence much less firm, scarcely exceeding that of butter.

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

“Take of hog’s lard, *one pound*; nitrous acid, *six drachms*. Mix the acid gradually with the melted lard, and beat the mixture assiduously as it cools.”

Dublin.

“Take of olive oil, *a pound*; prepared hog’s lard, *four ounces*; nitrous acid, *an ounce by weight*. Melt the oil in a glass vessel, and add the acid to it; let them be exposed to a medium 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 become firm.”

In this process the acid is partially decomposed, nitrous gas is evolved, and the ointment is oxidized, assuming a yellow colour and a firm consistence. It was invented by Alyon, who

¹ *Observations on White Swelling.*

found it useful in syphilitic and herpetic ulcers; and it has been occasionally used in this country for the same purposes; but it is less useful than the ointment of nitrate of mercury.

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

"Take of purified yellow wax, *a pound*; prepared hog's lard, *four pounds*. Form them into an ointment."

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

"This is to be prepared in the same manner as the former, with the substitution of white for yellow wax."

These are useful dressings to benign ulcers and excoriations, and form the basis of the majority of the compound ointments of the Dublin Pharmacopœia.

UNGUENTUM CETACEI. Lond. *Spermaceti Ointment.*¹

"Take of spermaceti, *six drachms*; white wax, *two drachms*; olive oil, *three fluid ounces*. 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, *a pound*; prepared lard, *three pounds*. Make them into an ointment."

These ointments form the ordinary dressings for healing blistered surfaces and excoriations.

UNGUENTUM ELEMI COMPOSITUM. Lond. *Compound Ointment of Elemi.*²

"Take of elemi, *a pound*; common turpentine, *ten ounces*; prepared suet, *two pounds*; olive oil, *two fluid ounces*. Melt the elemi with the suet; then remove it from the fire, and mix in immediately the turpentine and the oil; lastly, strain the mixture through a linen cloth."

UNGUENTUM ELEMI. Dub. *Ointment of Elemi.*

"Take of elemi resin, *a pound*; white wax, *half a pound*; prepared hog's lard, *four pounds*. Form them into an ointment, which is to be strained through a sieve while it is hot."

These ointments are stimulant and digestive. They are used to keep open issues and setons; and as a dressing to ulcers which do not admit of the application of the adhesive straps.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI FORTIUS. Lond. *Strong Mercurial Ointment.*³

¹ Unguentum Spermaceti, P. L. 1787.

² Unguentum e Gummi Elemi, P. L. 1745. Onguent d'Elemi et de Terebenthine (F.) Elemisalbe (G.) Unguento di Elemi e Tremantina (I.)

³ Ung. ceruleum fortius, P. L. 1745. Onguent. Mercuriale (F.) Quecksilbersalbe (G.) Unguento Mercuriale (I.)

"Take of purified mercury, *two pounds*; prepared lard, *twenty-three ounces*; prepared suet, *an ounce*. First rub the mercury with the suet and a little of the lard, until the globules disappear; then add the remainder of the fat, and mix."

Two drachms of this ointment contain one drachm of mercury.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI. Edin. *Mercurial Ointment.*

"Take of mercury, mutton suet, of each *one part*; hog's lard, *three parts*. Rub the mercury diligently in a mortar with a little of the hog's lard until the globules disappear; then add the remainder of the lard."

One drachm of this ointment contains twelve grains of mercury.

"It may also be made with double or triple the quantity of mercury."

Dublin.

"Take of purified mercury, prepared hog's lard, *equal weights*. Rub them together in a marble or an iron mortar until the globules disappear."

One drachm of this ointment contains thirty grains of mercury.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI MITIUS.* Lond. Dub. *Milder Mercurial Ointment.*

"Take of the stronger mercurial ointment, *a pound*; prepared lard, *two pounds*. Mix them."

One drachm of this ointment contains ten grains of mercury; but prepared according to the Dublin Pharmacopœia, with two parts of lard to one of mercury, one drachm contains a scruple of mercury.

The preparation of the stronger mercurial ointments requires much labour, care, and patience. During the trituration the mercury is mechanically divided into minute globules, which are prevented from running together again by the viscosity of the suet; and during the trituration they are afterwards gradually oxidized by attracting the oxygen of the atmosphere; the lard, the extension and the constant renewal of the surface exposed, favouring very much this effect. The fact of the oxidization of the metal in this process is now generally admitted; and whatever tends to favour it, as, for instance, a slight degree of rancidity of the lard, or the oil of eggs, shortens the time, and lessens the labour required for the preparation of the ointment. It is not uncommon, however, to use other means, which are not admissible, to facilitate the process, such as the use of sulphur or turpentine. The first may be detected by

* Unguentum ceruleum mitius, P. L. 1745.

the very black colour of the ointment, which is produced by the sulphuret of mercury; and also by the sulphurous odour exhaled, when a paper covered with a little of it is held over the flame of a candle: and the turpentine is detected by its odour also, when the ointment containing it is treated in the same manner. When newly prepared, mercurial ointment has a light gray or blueish colour, owing to its containing some unoxidized metal, which separates in globules when it is liquefied by a gentle heat: when kept for some time the colour is much deepened, and less metallic mercury subsides, owing to the more complete oxidizement of the metal. It is probable, therefore, that long kept mercurial ointment contains, besides the oxide, a sebate of mercury.

Medical properties and uses.—The strong mercurial ointment rubbed upon the skin is the ordinary mode of introducing a large quantity of oxide of mercury into the system. About ʒj. is rubbed upon the inside of the thighs, or any other part of the body where the cuticle is thin, every night and morning until the system is affected. The oxide contained in the ointment is absorbed during the friction, and carried into the habit; where it produces the same effects as arise from taking the remedy by the mouth, without the unpleasant affection of the bowels that very commonly follows the introduction of preparations of mercury into the stomach. In order, however, to produce the full effect of the friction, it must be continued until every particle of the ointment disappears; and the operation should be performed by the patient himself. The stronger mercurial ointment is used in this form as an antisyphilitic, as a deobstruent in hepatic affections, and to excite the absorbents in hydrocephalus. The weaker ointment is used only as a topical dressing in venereal sores. During a course of mercurials the patients should be kept in a moderately warm and dry, but airy chamber; and his diet should be chiefly weak broths, milk, and gruel.

The following Table shows at one view the quantity of mercury contained in each of the different ointments ordered by the British Colleges.

One drachm	{	of the Lond.	{ stronger ointment contains of merc. 30 grs.
			{ weaker ointment _____ 10
	{	of the Edin.	{ common ointment _____ 12
			{ stronger ointment _____ 30
	{	of the Dub.	{ weaker ointment _____ 20

UNGUENTUM OXIDI HYDRARGYRI CINEREI.

Edin. *Ointment of gray Oxide of Mercury.*¹

¹ Graue Quecksilbersalbe (G.)

"Take of gray oxide of mercury, *one part*; hog's lard, *three parts*. Mix."

As the whole of the mercury in this ointment is oxidized, it might, *à priori*, be supposed that it would answer all the purposes of the mercurial ointment; but it cannot be so easily introduced by friction, the oxide remaining on the surface of the cuticle after the unctuous matter is absorbed. It has, however, been too seldom employed to enable a correct judgment to be formed of its efficacy.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRATIS. Lond.
*Ointment of Nitrate of Mercury.*¹

"Take of purified mercury, *an ounce*; nitric acid, *eleven fluid drachms*; prepared lard, *six ounces*; olive oil, *four fluid ounces*. First dissolve the mercury in the acid; then mix the solution, while it is hot, with the lard and oil melted together."

UNGUENTUM NITRATIS HYDRARGYRI FORTIUS; vulgo, UNGUENTUM CITRINUM. Edin. *Stronger Ointment of Nitrate of Mercury.*

"Take of purified mercury, *one part*; nitrous acid, *two parts*; olive oil, *nine parts*; hog's lard, *three parts*. Dissolve the mercury in the acid; then beat up the solution strongly with the lard and oil previously melted together, and nearly cold, in a glass mortar, so as to form an ointment."

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

"Take of purified mercury, *an ounce*; nitrous acid, *two ounces by weight*; olive oil, *one pint*; hog's lard, *four ounces*. Dissolve the mercury in the acid; then mix the solution with the oil and lard previously melted together, and form an ointment in the same manner as the ointment of nitrous acid."

UNGUENTUM NITRATIS HYDRARGYRI MITIUS. Edin. *Milder Ointment of Nitrate of Mercury.*

"It is made in the same manner as the stronger ointment, with a triple proportion of oil and lard."

In all of these formulæ too large a proportion of lard is used: for the excess of acid in the metallic solution oxidizing the fatty matters, occasions them to become too hard and brittle after the ointment has been kept for some time, when more than one-sixth of lard is employed. The addition of the metallic solution to the melted mixture of lard and oil should be gradual, and made in a broad flat vessel, so as to expose a large surface to the action of a current of air; while the stirring should be performed with a wooden spatula, and continued until the ointment be perfectly cold.

¹ Onguent citrin (F.) Gelbe Quecksilbersalbe (G.) Unguento Citrino (L.)

When prepared in the above manner, and with one-sixth part only of lard, this ointment has a beautiful golden colour, and is of the consistence of butter, which it retains if preserved in close pots; but when made with a larger proportion of lard, it become hard, brittle, and of a pale dirty yellow hue, marbled with green blotches.

Medical properties and uses.— This ointment is stimulant and detergent. When moderately diluted with lard it is a local remedy of great efficacy in herpetic eruptions, tinea capitis, and other cutaneous eruptions. The weaker ointment may almost be regarded as a specific in psorophthalmia, in the purulent ophthalmia of infants producing ectropium, and in ulcerations of the tarsi. It is applied by taking a little on the finger, liquefying it by the fire or the flame of a candle, and applying it along the inner part of the eyelids.

UNGUENTUM GALLÆ. Edin. *Ointment of Galls.*

“Take of galls, in fine powder, *one part*; lard, *eight parts*. Mix.”

This is a very useful application in pills, and has long been used, although it has never before obtained a place in the pharmacopœia.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI NITRICO OXYDI. Lond. *Ointment of Nitric Oxide of Mercury.*¹

“Take of nitric oxide of mercury, *an ounce*; white wax, *two ounces*; prepared lard, *six ounces*. Melt together the wax and lard, then add to the mixture the nitric oxide of mercury in very fine powder, and mix.”

UNGUENTUM OXIDI HYDRARGYRI RUBRI. Edin. *Ointment of red Oxide of Mercury.*

“Take of red oxide of mercury by nitric acid in fine powder, *one part*; hog’s lard, *eight parts*. Mix.”

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

“Take of ointment of white wax, *half a pound*; subnitrate of mercury, *half an ounce*. Form them into an ointment.”

These are excellent stimulant ointments, well adapted for giving energy to indolent foul ulcers. They are also of great use in inflammation of the conjunctiva, with a thickening of the inner membrane of the palpebræ; and to specks of the cornea. They are to be applied in the same manner as the ointment of nitrate of mercury.

UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI PRÆCIPITATI ALBI.² Lond. *Ointment of White Precipitate of Mercury.*

¹ Rothe Quecksilbersalbe (G.)

² Unguentum e Mercurio præcipitato albo, P. L. 1745. Ung. Calcis Hydrargyri albi, P. L. 1787.

"Take of white precipitate of mercury, *a drachm*; prepared lard, *an ounce and a half*. Add the precipitated mercury to the lard previously melted by a gentle heat, and mix."

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

"Take of ointment of white wax, *a pound*; ammoniated submuriate of mercury, *an ounce and a half*. Form them into an ointment."

These ointments are stimulant and detergent. They are recommended by Werlhoff, and some other German authors, as a remedy for itch, which may be safely used on infants; but they have been little employed in this country.

UNGUENTUM LYT'TÆ.¹ Lond. *Blistering Ointment.*

"Take of blistering flies finely powdered, *two ounces*; distilled water, *eight fluid ounces*; resin cerate, *eight ounces*. Boil the water with the blistering flies to half its quantity, and strain. Mix the cerate into the strained liquor, and evaporate it to a proper consistence.

UNGUENTUM INFUSI CANTHARIDIS VESICATORIÆ. Edin. *Ointment of Infusion of Blistering Flies.*

"Take of blistering flies, resin, yellow wax, of each, *one part*; Venice turpentine, hog's lard, of each, *two parts*; boiling water, *four parts*. Macerate the flies in the water for a night, and strain the liquor, expressing it strongly; add the liquor to the fat, and boil until the water be evaporated; then add the wax and the resin, and when these are melted, remove the mixture from the fire; add the Venice turpentine, and mix."

These ointments are sufficiently mild, but they do not always succeed in keeping open a blistered surface, the purpose for which they are designed. Little efficacy can be ascribed to the blistering flies, their acrimony being nearly destroyed by the heat employed for the evaporation of the water.²

UNGUENTUM JUNIPERI SABINÆ. Edin. *Ointment of Savine.*

"Take of fresh leaves of savine, *two parts*; yellow wax, *one part*; lard, *four parts*. Melt the wax and lard together, then boil in them the leaves, and express through a cloth."

This ointment is intended for keeping a blistered surface discharging, and answers the same purpose as the cerate of savine.

¹ Unguentum Cantharidis, P. L. 1787. Kantharidensalbe (G.)

² Galen employed an ointment made by macerating the entire insect in melted lard for twenty-four hours, and then straining by expression. Boerhaave proposed to boil the flies in water, then to pour off the liquid, and make an ointment of the boiled insects with the addition of lard.

UNGUENTUM CARBONATIS PLUMBI. Edin.
*Ointment of Carbonate of Lead.*¹

"Take of simple ointment, *five parts*; Carbonate of lead, *one part*. Mix."

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

"Take of ointment of white wax, *a pound*; cerussa reduced to a very fine powder, *two ounces*. Form them into an ointment."

These are useful, cooling, desiccative ointments, chiefly employed as dressings for burns.

UNGUENTUM OXIDI ZINCI IMPURI. Edin. *Ointment of impure Oxide of Zinc.*²

"Take of simple liniment, *five parts*; prepared impure oxide of zinc, *one part*. Mix."

UNGUENTUM TUTIÆ. Dub. *Ointment of Tutty.*

"Take of ointment of white wax, *ten ounces*; prepared tutty, *two ounces*. Form them into an ointment."

These ointments were formerly much used in ophthalmia tarsi; but they are now seldom employed.

UNGUENTUM PICIS LIQUIDÆ. Lond. *Tar Ointment.*

"Take of tar, prepared suet, of each *a pound*. Melt them together, and strain the mixture through a linen cloth."

UNGUENTUM PICIS LIQUIDÆ. Edin. *Tar Ointment.*

"Take of tar, *five parts*; yellow wax, *two parts*. Melt the wax with a gentle heat: then add the tar, and stir until the mixture stiffens in cooling."

UNGUENTUM PICIS LIQUIDÆ. Dub. *Tar Ointment.*

"Take of tar, mutton suet, of each *half a pound*. Melt them together, and strain them through a sieve."

Although the pitch and the tar ointments differ in their sensible qualities, yet they are both applicable to the same purposes. They are used with advantage as detergents in scabby foul eruptions, and tinea capitis.

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

"Take of prepared hog's lard, *a pound*; black pepper in powder, *four ounces*. Form them into an ointment."

We are ignorant of the purpose for which this irritating ointment is designed.

UNGUENTUM PULVERIS CANTHARIDIS VESICATORIÆ. Edin. *Ointment of the Powder of Blistering Flies.*

¹ Onguent de Tuthie (F.) Unguento di Tuzia (I.)

² Onguent blanc (F.) Bleiweissalbe (G.) Unguento bianco (I.)

³ Unguentum e Pice, P.L. 1743. Unguentum Picis, P.L. 1787.

• “Take of resinous ointment, *seven parts*; powdered blistering flies, *one part*.” Sprinkle the powder into the melted ointment: and stir the mixture until it stiffens in cooling.

UNGUENTUM CANTHARIDIS. Dub. *Ointment of Blistering Flies.*

“Take of ointment of yellow wax, *half a pound*; blistering flies in powder, *one ounce*. Form them into an ointment.”

These ointments are intended for promoting a purulent discharge from blistered surfaces, and produce this effect sufficiently well when the irritation they excite can be supported, which, however cannot always be done. The flies should be reduced to a very fine powder, and very intimately mixed with the ointment.

UNGUENTUM RESINÆ NIGRÆ.¹ Lond. *Black Resin Ointment.*

“Take of black resin, yellow wax, yellow resin, of each *nine ounces*; olive oil, *a pint*. Melt them together, and strain through a linen cloth.”

UNGUENTUM SAMBUCI.² Lond. *Elder Ointment.*

“Take of elder flowers, prepared lard, of each *two pounds*. Boil the elder flowers in the lard, until they become crisp, then strain the ointment through a linen cloth.”

Dublin.

“Take of fresh elder flowers, *three pounds*; prepared hog's lard, *four pounds*; mutton suet, *two pounds*. Make an ointment of these in the manner directed for the preparation of the savine ointment.”

These ointments are simply emollient, and possess no advantages over simple ointment. They are vestiges of the redundant practice of former times.

UNGUENTUM SIMPLEX, Edin. *Simple Ointment.*

“Take of olive oil, *five parts*; white wax, *two parts*. Melt the wax in the oil; then stir the mixture until it stiffens in cooling.”

An useful emollient ointment for softening the skin.

Officinal preparations. Unguentum Oxidi Plumbi albi. E. Unguentum Acetatis Plumbi. E.

UNGUENTUM SUB-ACETATIS CUPRI. Edin. *Ointment of Subacetate of Copper.*³

“Take of resinous ointment, *fifteen parts*; subacetate of copper, *one part*. Sprinkle the subacetate into the melted ointment and stir until the mixture stiffens in cooling.”

UNGUENTUM ÆRUGINIS. Dub. *Ointment of Verdegris.*

¹ Unguentum basilicum nigrum, vel tetra pharmacum, P. L. 1745.

² Unguentum sambucinum, P. L. 1720.

³ Unguento Egiziaco (I.)

"Take of ointment of white wax, *a pound*; prepared verdgris, *half an ounce*. Make them into an ointment."

These ointments are escharotic and detergent. They are used as an occasional dressing to foul, flabby ulcers; and as an application to scrophulous ulcerations of the tarsi. They can scarcely be used in the undiluted state, unless to act as a caustic for taking down fungous flesh.

UNGUENTUM SULPHURIS. Lond. *Sulphur Ointment.*¹

"Take of sublimed sulphur, *three ounces*; prepared lard, *half a pound*. Mix them."

Edinburgh.

"Take of hog's lard, *four parts*; sublimed sulphur, *one part*. Mix."

Dublin.

"Take of prepared hog's lard, *four pounds*; sublimed sulphur, *a pound*. Form them into an ointment."

These ointments are specific in itch. They should be rubbed on the body every night until the disease be cured, but not more than one-fourth part of the body should be covered with it at a time.

UNGUENTUM SULPHURIS COMPOSITUM. Lond. *Compound Ointment of Sulphur.*²

"Take of sublimed sulphur, *half a pound*; white hellebore root in powder, *two ounces*; nitrate of potash, *a drachm*; soft soap, *half a pound*; prepared lard, *a pound and a half*. Mix them."

This ointment is employed in the same cases as the simple ointment. It is supposed to derive more efficacy from the addition of the white hellebore, but it often excites too much irritation.

UNGUENTUM VERATRI. Lond. *Ointment of White Hellebore.*³

"Take of white hellebore root powdered, *two ounces*; prepared lard, *eight ounces*; oil of lemon, *twenty minims*. Mix them."

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

¹ Onguent soufré (F.) Schwefelsalbe (G.) Unguento Solforato (I.) As the smell of the sulphur ointments is objected to by many people, the following combination has been recommended.

"Take of subcarbonate of potash, *half an ounce*; rose water, *one ounce*; red sulphuret of mercury, *one drachm*; essential oil of bergamot, *half a fluid drachm*; sublimed sulphur, hog's lard, of each, *eleven ounces*. Mix them."

Bateman on Cutaneous Diseases, p. 200. note.

² Onguent soufré composée (F.) Unguento solforato composto (I.)

³ Unguentum Hellebori albi, P. L. 1787.

"Take of prepared lard, *a pound*; white hellebore root in powder, *three ounces*. Make them into an ointment."

These ointments are sometimes used for the cure of scabies, when the smell of the sulphur ointment is objected to; but they are less certain remedies.

UNGUENTUM ZINCI. Lond. UNGUENTUM OXIDI ZINCI. Edin. *Zinc Ointment.*¹

"Take of oxide of zinc, *an ounce*; prepared lard, *six ounces*. Mix them."

UNGUENTUM OXIDI ZINCI. Edin. *Ointment of Oxide of Zinc.*

"Take of simple liniment, *six parts*; oxide of zinc, *one part*. Mix."

Dublin.

"Take of ointment of white wax, *a pound*; oxide of zinc, *an ounce and a half*. Make them into an ointment."

These ointments are moderately astringent and stimulant. They are generally applied in chronic inflammation of the eye, depending on a relaxed state of the vessels: we find them also of very considerable use in sore nipples; and for removing ring-worm, particularly when it attacks the scalp.

LINIMENTA.

LINIMENTS.

THESE are compositions which have the consistence of oil or balsam; so as to allow them to be easily rubbed upon the skin. They are in general more active remedies than cerates or ointments; and act as local stimulants, relieving deep-seated inflammations and pains.

LINIMENTUM ÆRUGINIS. Lond. *Liniment of Verdegriis.*

"Take of verdegriis powdered, *an ounce*; vinegar, *seven fluid ounces*; clarified honey, *fourteen ounces*. Dissolve the verdegriis in the vinegar, and strain it through a linen cloth; then having added the honey, boil down the mixture to a proper consistence."

OXYMEL ÆRUGINIS. Dub. *Oxymel of Verdegriis.*

"Take of prepared verdegriis, *one ounce*; wine vinegar, *seven fluid ounces*; clarified honey, *fourteen ounces*. Dissolve the verdegriis in the vinegar, and strain it through a linen cloth; add the honey, and boil the mixture to a proper thickness."

¹ Onguent de Zinc (F.) Zinksalbe (G.) Unguento di Zinco (I.)