

ported the strength with wine, opium, and cordials. After the life of the parts appeared to be restored, purges were given, the cordials omitted, and mild emollient dressings applied.¹ We have had several opportunities of witnessing the good effects of this plan of treatment.

CATAPLASMATA.

CATAPLASMS.

CATAPLASMS are in general extemporaneous preparations; but the two following formulæ are introduced into the Pharmacopœias to fix the proportions of the ingredients.

CATAPLASMA FERMENTI. Lond. *Yeast Cataplasm.*

"Take of flour, *a pound*; yeast of beer, *half a pint*. Mix, and expose the mixture to a gentle heat, until it begins to swell."

The inflation is produced by the extrication of carbonic acid gas, on which the efficacy of the cataplasm depends; and which is evolved by the heat applied to the mixture exciting the fermentative process. In this state it is applied to painful, gangrenous, or foul ulcers; and soon corrects the fœtor of the discharge, while at the same time it hastens the sloughing of the sores."

CATAPLASMA SINAPIS. Lond. *Cataplasm of Mustard.*

"Take of mustard seed, linseed, of each in powder *half a pound*; hot vinegar, *a sufficient quantity*. Mix them to the thickness of a cataplasm."

CATAPLASMA SINAPEOS. Dub. *Mustard Cataplasm.*

"Take of mustard seed in powder, crumb of bread, of each *half a pound*; vinegar, *a sufficient quantity*. Mix them, so as to make a cataplasm. This preparation may be rendered more acrid by adding two ounces of horse-radish finely scraped."

These cataplasms are powerful local stimulants, and rubefacients. They are to be spread on cloths to the thickness of about half an inch, and applied to the soles of the feet, in the low stage of typhus fever, particularly when stupor or delirium is present; and in apoplexy, coma, and other cases in which there is a great determination to the head. Their rubefacient effects are very quickly produced, and often so powerfully, as to raise blisters on the part.

¹ *Essays on Burns*, &c. by Edward Kentish, 1797 and 1800.