These plasters are defensive, adhesive, and gently stimulant. They are used for retaining together the lips of recent wounds, when it is wished to heal them by the first intention; to give support to ulcerated parts; and to assist their granulation and cicatrization, according to the excellent method of Mr. Baynton. The plaster, however, originally used by Mr. Baynton, contained less resin; ʒvi. only being added to lb. j. of the litharge plaster; but this preparation answers the purpose equally well, except in very irritable habits. The best substance for spreading it on for the above purpose is calico; and it is of some importance to spread it equally and thin; to effect which the calico must be stretched, and the plaster melted and beginning to cool, must be poured on one end of it, and equally extended over the whole surface by means of a spatula, held horizontally, and one edge of the blade raised to an angle of 45 degrees: or it may be still more equally done by passing the calico, on which the fluid plaster has been poured, through a machine formed of a straight blade of steel, fixed by screws, at a proper distance from a polished plate of the same metal. It is sold ready spread.

EMPLASTRUM SAPONIS, Lond. Dub. *Soap Plaster.*

"Take of Hard Soap sliced, *half a pound*; Lead Plaster, *three pounds*. Mix the Soap with the melted Plaster; then boil it down to a proper consistence."

EMPLASTRUM SAPONACEUM, Edin. *Soap Plaster.*

"Take of Semivitreous Oxide of Lead, *four parts*; Gum Plaster, *two parts*; Soap sliced, *one part*. Mix the Soap with the Plasters melted together; then boil them a little so as to form a Plaster."

Syn. Seifenpflaster (*G.*).

Dr. Powell properly observes, that the Soap Plaster of the London College "must be formed into rolls when it begins to thicken, for afterwards, although it be still somewhat soft, it loses its tenacity, and will break to pieces."[1]

Soap plaster is discutient; and is applied to lymphatic tumours: but it is much less useful than the mercurial plaster.

CERATA.

CERATES.

THESE are unctuous compositions possessing a certain degree of firmness, intermediate between that of plasters and

[1] *Powell's Translation of the London Pharmacopœia*, 2d. edit. 324.

that of ointments. Their consistence depends on the Wax they contain; and from it they derive their generic appellation. The most important circumstance to be attended to in their preparation is the freshness of the fat and the oils employed; and their preservation in this state.

CERATUM SIMPLEX, Lond. *Cerate.*

"Take of Olive Oil, *four fluid ounces;* Yellow Wax, *four ounces.* Add the Oil to the melted Wax, and mix."

Syn. Cerat simple (*F.*), Cerotto semplice (*I.*).

This is an useful simple emollient dressing to excoriations and sores.

CERATUM CALAMINÆ, Lond. *Calamine Cerate.*

"Take of Prepared Calamine, Yellow Wax, of each, *half a pound;* Olive Oil, *a pint.* Mix the Oil with the melted Wax; then remove the mixture from the fire, and as soon as it begins to thicken, add the Calamine, stirring constantly until it be cold."

CERATUM CARBONATIS ZINCI IMPURI, Edin. *Cerate of Impure Carbonate of Zinc.*

"Take of Simple Cerate, *five parts;* Prepared Impure Carbonate of Zinc, *one part.* Mix."

UNGUENTUM CALAMINARE, Dub. *Calamine Ointment.*

"Take of Ointment of Yellow Wax, *five pounds;* Prepared Calamine, *a pound.* Make them into an ointment."

These preparations are very useful dressings to excoriations and ulcers; and as they are in some degree desiccative, they are also applied to burns after the inflammation is abated; and to the eye-lids in ophthalmia tarsi. They have been long known in practice under the name of *Turner's Cerate.*

CERATUM CETACEI, Lond. *Spermaceti Cerate.*

"Take of Spermaceti, *half an ounce;* White Wax, *two ounces;* Olive Oil, *four fluid ounces.* Melt the Spermaceti and the Wax together, then add the Oil, and stir them until they be cold."

CERATUM SIMPLEX, Edin. *Simple Cerate.*

"Take of Olive Oil, *six parts;* White Wax, *three parts;* Spermaceti, *one part.* Melt the Wax and Spermaceti in the Oil, with a gentle heat; then keep constantly stirring until the mixture stiffen in cooling."

Syn. Cerat de blanc de balaine (*F.*), Cerotto di Spermaceti (*I.*).

These are soft cooling dressings.

Officinal preparations. *Ceratum Cantharidis,* L. *Ceratum Carbonatis Zinci impuri,* E.

CERATUM CANTHARIDIS, Lond. *Cerate of Blistering Flies.*

"Take of Spermaceti Cerate, *six drachms;* Blistering Flies reduced to a very fine powder, *a drachm.* Add the Blister-

ing Flies to the Cerate softened by the fire, and mix them together."

Syn. Cerat de Cantharides (*F.*), Cerotto di Cantarille (*I.*).

This Cerate is intended to promote a purulent discharge from a blistered surface; and in general it answers this intention without occasioning much irritation. In some habits, however, it occasions strangury, great pain of the part, swellings of the lymphatics, and so much general irritation as to produce œdematose swellings and erysipelas of the neighbouring parts.[1]

It may be proper to observe, that it is preferable to spread Cerates or Ointments, intended to keep open issues, on lint; and that the dressings should in all cases be renewed once in twenty-four hours.

CERATUM PLUMBI ACETATIS, Lond. *Cerate of Acetate of Lead.*

"Take of Acetate of Lead in powder, *two drachms;* White Wax, *two ounces;* Olive Oil, *half a pint.* Melt the Wax in seven fluid ounces of the Oil; then add, gradually, the Acetate of Lead separately rubbed down with the remaining oil, and stir with a wooden spatula, until they be thoroughly incorporated."

This is an excellent cooling Cerate for burns, excoriations, and other inflamed sores.

CERATUM PLUMBI COMPOSITUM, Lond. *Compound Cerate of Lead.*[2]

"Take of Solution of Acetate of Lead, *two fluid ounces and a half;* Yellow Wax, *four ounces;* Olive Oil, *nine fluid ounces;* Camphor, *half a drachm.* Melt the Wax and mix it with eight fluid ounces of the Oil; then remove them from the fire, and as soon as they begin to thicken, add gradually the solution of Acetate of Lead, and stir assiduously with a wooden spatula till they be cold. Finally, mix with these the Camphor dissolved in the remainder of the Oil."

This composition is similar to what was recommended by Goulard, as a mode of applying lead in the form of ointment, and long known under the name of *Goulard's Cerate.* It is applicable to the same cases as the former cerate.

CERATUM RESINÆ, Lond. *Resin Cerate.*

"Take of Yellow Resin, Yellow Wax, of each, *a pound;*

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[1] In one case, which came under my observation, a blister on the scalp was dressed for four days with this cerate. On the fourth day the head swelled to an alarming size; and an œdematose erysipelas covered the scalp and face, and shut up the eyes; accompanied with a great degree of fever. On removing the acrid dressings, and employing emollient fomentations, with dressings of cetaceous ointment, these alarming symptoms soon subsided.

[2] This name is improper. It ought to have been *Ceratum Plumbi Acetatis comp.;* the virtue of the composition depending on the acetate of lead, not on lead.

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Oil of Olive, *a pint*. Melt the Resin and the Wax together by a slow fire, then add the Oil, and strain the Cerate while it is hot through a linen cloth."

UNGUENTUM RESINOSUM, Edin. *Resinous Ointment.*

"Take of Hog's Lard, *eight parts*; Resin, *five parts*; Yellow Wax, *two parts*. Melt the whole with a gentle heat, and stir the mixture until it stiffen in cooling."

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

"Take of Yellow Wax, *a pound*; White Resin, *two pounds*; prepared Hog's Lard, *four pounds*. Make them into an ointment, which is to be strained, while it is hot, through a sieve."

Syn. Cerat Resineux (*F.*), Harzzerat (*G.*), Cerotto Resinoso (*I.*).

These ointments are stimulant, digestive, and cleansing; and, therefore, form an excellent dressing for foul and indolent ulcers.

Officinal preparation. *Linimentum Terebinthinæ*, L.

CERATUM SABINÆ, Lond. *Cerate of Savine.*

"Take of the Fresh Leaves of Savine bruised, *a pound*; Yellow Wax, *half a pound*; Prepared Lard, *two pounds*. Melt the Lard and the Wax together, and boil the Savine Leaves in the mixture; then strain through a linen cloth."

UNGUENTUM SABINÆ, Dub. *Savine Ointment.*

"Take Fresh Leaves of Savine freed from the stalks and bruised, *half a pound*; prepared Hog's Lard, *two pounds*; Yellow Wax, *half a pound*. Boil the Leaves with the Lard until they become crisp; then strain with expression: lastly, add the wax, and melt them together."

The preparation of this ointment is exceedingly difficult, as the acrid principle of the Savine, on which its efficacy depends, is much injured by long boiling, or too high a temperature. Might it not be better to express the acrid juice from the fresh leaves, and mix it with the ointment when it begins to thicken by cooling? If the fresh leaves cannot be procured, it may be prepared from the dry leaves reduced to a fine powder: but the acrimony of the savine is impaired by drying it. The ointment, when good, has a beautiful deep-green colour, and the odour of the fresh bruised herb. It should be kept in closely-covered pots, as it soon loses its virtue by exposure to the air.

Savine ointment, which was first described by Mr. Crowther [1], 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

[1] *Observations on White Swelling.*

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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 the wax previously melted with the oil."

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 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."

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