"Take of Hard Soap sliced, *four ounces;* Opium, *one ounce;* Camphor, *two ounces;* Oil of Rosemary, *half an ounce;* Alcohol, *two pounds.* Digest the Soap in the Alcohol for three days, then to the strained solution add the Camphor and the Oil, frequently shaking the mixture."

The addition of the opium to the soap liniment, renders it in many cases of rheumatism and local pains, more useful than the simple liniment: but if any effect is particularly desired from the external application of opium, it will be obtained with more certainty, by dissolving the opium in olive oil.

LINIMENTUM TEREBINTHINÆ, Lond. *Turpentine Liniment.*

"Take of Cerate of Resin, *a pound;* Oil of Turpentine, *half a pint.* Melt the Cerate, then add to it the Oil of Turpentine, and mix them."

This liniment was introduced into practice by Dr. Kentish, at that time a surgeon in Newcastle, as a dressing to burns immediately after they happen, and until the loosening of the eschars. Dr. Kentish's plan was first to bathe the parts with warm oil of turpentine, and then to apply over them plasters thickly spread, of this liniment; at the same time that he supported 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 begin 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

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

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.

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## TABLE,

*Showing the Proportion in which Opium and certain Preparations of Iron, Antimony, Arsenic, and Mercury are contained in some compound Medicines.*

*Opium.*

CONFECTIO OPII, Lond. *Confection of Opium.* Thirty-six grains contain one grain of opium.

ELECTUARIUM OPIATUM, Edin. *Opiate Electuary,* contains in each drachm about one grain and a half of opium.

ELECTUARIUM CATECHU COMPOSITUM, Edin. *Electuary of Catechu,* contains in each ounce about two grains and a half of opium; or one hundred and ninety-three grains contain one grain of opium.

ELECTUARIUM CATECHU COMPOSITUM, Dub. *Compound Electuary of Catechu,* contains in each ounce about two grains and a half of purified opium.

PILULÆ SAPONIS CUM OPIO, Lond. *Pills of Soap and of Opium.* Five grains contain one grain of opium.

PILULÆ OPIATÆ, Edin. *Opiate,* formerly *Thebaic, Pills.* Each drachm contains six grains of opium. A pill of five grains contains half a grain of opium.

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