CHAPTER XII.

Epithems.

EPITHEMA VESICATORIUM.
Blistering epithem.
Lond.

TAKE of
Cantharides, reduced into a most subtile powder,
Wheat flower, each equal weights.
Make them into a paste with vinegar.

THIS composition is of a softer consistence than the blistering plasters, and for this reason is in some cases preferred. Practitioners differ with regard to the degree of consistence and adhesiveness most proper for applications of this kind, and sometimes vary them occasionally.

CATAPLASMA e CYMINO.
Cataplasm of cummin.
Lond.

Take of
Cummin seeds, half a pound;
Bay berries,
Scordium leaves dried,
Virginian snakeroot, each three ounces;
Cloves, one ounce;
Honey, thrice the weight of the powdered species.
Make them into a cataplasm.

THIS is a reformation of the THERIACA LONDINENSIS, which for some time past has been scarce otherwise made use of than as a warm cataplasm: only such of its ingredients are retained as contribute most to this intention.

CATAPLASMA AROMATICUM.
Aromatic cataplasm.
Edinb.

Take of
Long birthwort root,
Bay berries, each four ounces;
Sweet fennel seeds,
Mint leaves, each three ounces;
Jamaica pepper,
Myrrh, each two ounces;
Honey, thrice the weight of the powders.
Mix and make them into a cataplasm; which supplies the place of theriaca for external purposes.

CATAPLASMA DISCUTIENS.
Discutient cataplasm.
Edinb.

Take of
Bryony root, three ounces;
Elder flowers, one ounce;
Gum ammoniac, half an ounce;
Sal ammoniac, crude, two drams;
Camphorated spirit of wine, one ounce.
Boil the roots and flowers in a sufficient quantity of water, till they become tender; and having then bruised them, add to them the gum ammoniacum, dissolved in a sufficient quantity of vinegar, and likewise the sal ammoniac and spirit: mix the whole together, so as to make them into a cataplasm.

THIS composition is as good a discutient as any thing that can well be contrived in this form of a cataplasm. In some of our hospitals the following more simple form is made use of.

CATAPLASMA DISCUTIENS.
Discutient cataplasm.

Take of
Barley meal, six ounces;

Fresh

Fresh hemlock, well bruised, two ounces;
Crude sal ammoniac, half an ounce;
Vinegar, a sufficient quantity.

Boil the meal and the hemlock leaves for a little time in the vinegar, and then mix with them the sal ammoniac.

CATAPLASMA MATURANS.
Ripening cataplasm.
Lond.

Take of
Figs, four ounces;
Yellow basilicum ointment, one ounce;
Galbanum, strained, half an ounce.

Beat the figs thoroughly in a mortar, occasionally dropping in some spirit of wine or strong ale; then carefully mix with them the ointment first liquefied along with the galbanum.

CATAPLASMA SUPPURANS.
Suppurating cataplasm.
Edinb.

Take of
White lily (or marshmallow) roots, four ounces;
Fat figs, one ounce;
Raw onions, bruised, six drams;
Galbanum, half an ounce;
Yellow basilicum ointment,
Oil of camomile by decoction, each one ounce;
Linseed meal, as much as is sufficient.

Let the lily (or marshmallow) roots be boiled along with the figs, in a sufficient quantity of water, till they become tender; then bruise, and add to them the other ingredients, and make the whole into a cataplasm, according to art. The galbanum must be previously dissolved in the yolk of an egg.

Both these compositions are good suppurants, or ripeners; though their effects probably depend more on their keeping the part soft, moist, and warm, than on any particular qualities of the ingredients.

SINAPISMUS.
A sinapism.
Edinb.

Take of
Mustard seed, in powder,
Crumb of bread, each equal parts;
Strong vinegar, as much as is sufficient.

Mix and make them into a cataplasm; to which is sometimes added a little bruised garlic.

In the preceding edition two sinapisms were described; a *simple*, which is that above directed, without the garlick; and a *compound*, which is as follows.

Take of
Mustard seed, in powder,
Crumb of bread, each two ounces;
Garlic, bruised, half an ounce;
Black soap, one ounce;
Strong vinegar, a sufficient quantity.

Mix and make them into a cataplasm, according to art.

Both these compositions are employed only as stimulants: they often inflame the part, and raise blisters, but not so perfectly as cantharides. They are frequently applied to the soles of the feet in the low state of acute diseases, for raising the pulse and relieving the head.

COAGU-

COAGULUM ALUMINOSUM.
Alum curd.
Lond.

Take
Any quantity of the white of eggs.
Agitate it with a sufficiently large lump of alum, in a tin dish, until it is coagulated.

This preparation is taken from Riverius. It is an useful astringent epithem for sore, moist eyes, and excellently cools and represses thin defluxions. Slighter inflammations of the eyes, occasioned by dust, exposure to the sun, or other like causes, are generally removed by fomenting them with warm milk and water, and washing them with the collyrium described in page 620. Where the complaint is more violent, this preparation, after the inflammation has yielded a little to bleeding, is one of the best external remedies. It is to be spread on lint, and applied at bed-time.

CATAPLASMA EMOLLIENS.
Emollient cataplasm.

Take of
Crumb of bread, eight ounces;
White soap, one ounce;
Cows milk, fresh, a sufficient quantity.
Boil them a little together.

CATAPLASMA STOMACHICUM.
Stomachic cataplasm.

Take of
The aromatic cataplasm, one ounce;
Expressed oil of mace, two drams;
Anodyne balsam, as much as is sufficient to reduce them into a proper consistence.

CATAPLASMA CAMPHORATUM.
Camphorated cataplasm.

Take of
Aromatic cataplasm, one ounce;
Camphor, one dram.
Mix them together.

CATAPLASMA ISCHIADICUM.
Ischiadic cataplasm.

Take of
Mustard seed, half a pound;
White pepper,
Ginger, each one dram;
Simple oxymel, as much as will reduce them into a cataplasm.

The use of these compositions, which are taken from our hospitals, may be easily understood from their titles. The last is a very stimulating application, and frequently vesicates the skin.