

United States Patent Office.

ALBERT D. RICHARDS, OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO
TUFTS, GROSVENOR & COMPANY.

Letters Patent No. 111,682, dated February 7, 1871.

IMPROVEMENT IN MEDICATED PLASTERS.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT D. RICHARDS, of Somerville, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Medicated Plasters; and I hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

This invention relates to an improvement in medicated plasters, to be used to relieve pain, and consists in a composition formed of rubber, Burgundy pitch, and extract of belladonna, or opium, which is afterward spread on cloth or other suitable material, to form a plaster, the rubber and pitch, when combined together, causing the plaster to remain at all times elastic and pliable, and always ready for use without the application of heat, while the plaster, after being applied, will adhere firmly to the body, and, when removed, no portion of the rubber or pitch will adhere to the skin.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention I will proceed to describe the manner in which I have carried it out.

I take two and a half ounces of Burgundy pitch, and, after melting it in a suitable vessel, add thereto three and a half ounces of extract of belladonna, and stir until they are thoroughly mixed and incorporated together.

As soon as this compound has become cold and hard it is broken up into small pieces and mixed with eight ounces of pure rubber, cut up into pieces of suitable size.

The whole is then ground in a cold state until it is reduced to a pulpy mass, in which condition it is spread onto cloth, to form plasters, by means of rollers, in a well-known manner.

In some cases opium may be substituted for belladonna, if preferred, as both serve to relieve pain; and in making the above quantity of the compound about

one and a half ounces of opium in powder would be required.

The proportions of all of the above-named ingredients may be somewhat varied according to circumstances without departing from the spirit of my invention.

By combining rubber and pitch together, as above described, I am enabled to produce a plaster superior to any other now in use.

Its advantages are as follows:

It will not dry up and crack, even in cold weather, but will always remain elastic and pliable, and ready for immediate use.

It can be applied instantly without heat, and will adhere firmly wherever placed.

Furthermore, the heat of the body or hot weather will not cause the compound to melt and run; consequently the plaster will not become displaced, as is liable to occur where Burgundy pitch alone is used as an adhesive agent.

It is exceedingly clean in its application, as no portion of the pitch or rubber will remain on the skin when the plaster is removed.

The compound being placed on cloth renders it easy to be rolled up and carried about, and plasters of any convenient size can be cut therefrom.

Claim.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A medicated plaster, made and coated with a compound formed of the ingredients set forth, and prepared substantially as herein described.

Witness my hand this 21st day of December, 1870.

ALBERT D. RICHARDS.

Witnesses:

P. E. TESCHEMACHER,
W. J. CAMBRIDGE.