Patented Apr. 11, 1939

2,153,653

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

2,153,653

IRRADIATED DUSTING POWDER

Gustav Stux, Vienna, Austria

No Drawing. Application January 8, 1936, Serial No. 58,227. In Austria January 5, 1932

1 Claim. (Cl. 167—58)

This invention relates to irradiated dusting powder suitable more particularly for use in the treatment of eczema of every kind both dry and discharging, and has for its object to produce powder of this nature which is of increased efficacy and of universal applicability.

In accordance with the invention the method of production consists essentially in first sterilizing finely pulverized, roasted gypsum, by the application of heat, and then exposing the powder to the action of chemically effective light rays. The gypsum used may not be dead burned, and is pulverized extremely fine and purified before sterilization. For the purpose of sterilization the powder is heated to about 100° C. preferably in stirring or agitating devices. After having cooled down to about 60° C., the powder is then irradiated with chemically potent rays, preferably by passing it under powerful quartz lamps in a thin layer spread out on conveyor belts. Instead of quartz lamps there can be employed any other lamps capable of emitting ultra-violet rays.

In order to increase the efficacy of the dusting powder produced in this manner, which, as already mentioned, is suitable not only for the treatment of the healthy skin but also for healing eczema, there can also be added to the powdered gypsum other specifically effective substances both of an inorganic and of an organic nature. This addition can be given either before, during, or after the irradiation with ultra-violet rays. As an inorganic supplement there can be added for example zinc oxide, which enhances the healing power, and as an organic, pulverized camomile blossoms which likewise promote the healing of eczema and prevent irritation of the skin.

I have further found that skin irritation can be avoided entirely by using instead of gypsum a mixture of gypsum and anhydrite. The term anhydrite is to be understood as meaning both the natural mineral known as anhydrite and also artificial anhydrite obtained by overburning gypsum. If a mixture of gypsum and anhydrite be employed for the purpose of the present invention an interaction is set up between the anhydrite and the hydrated gypsum, which does not exert the slightest irritation on the skin but which has a beneficial effect on herpes and discharging affections and outbreaks. The effect can be varied at will by altering the proportions of anhydrite and hydrated gypsum in the mixture.

It is known to use gypsum in the production of dusting powder (cf. Hager's "Handbuch der pharmazeutischen Praxis", Vol. I, 1925, page 766); the treatment of foodstuffs and remedial substances, such as fat, and fats and similar substances incorporated in ointments and creams containing or free from mineral additions, with ultra-violet rays has likewise already been proposed (cf. Austrian Patents Nos. 118,762 and 121,657). It has been unknown as yet, however, to treat dusting powder containing gypsum as the main constituent, with ultra-violet rays for the purpose of enhancing its healing action.

I claim:

A medicating dust comprising a mixture of roasted gypsum and anhydrite irradiated by ultra-violet rays.

GUSTAV STUX.