

United States Patent Office.

OSCAR G. DITMARS, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

Letters Patent No. 75,536, dated March 17, 1868.

IMPROVED MEDICAL COMPOUND.

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, OSCAR G. DITMARS, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented or discovered a new and useful composition of matter or medicine called "The American Cough Balm," for curing or relieving coughs and colds, and for restoring to the nervous system its proper tone and vigor when prostrated or debilitated from excessive labor or lingering illness, or other causes.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention or discovery, I will proceed to describe the materials of which my medicine is composed, and the relative proportions of each which I employ, and the manner of compounding the same, and the mode of applying the same for curing or relieving the diseases and ills above mentioned.

First, the medicine is a liquid.

Second, it is composed of the following-named materials, and in the following proportions, viz, one gallon of best Jamaica rum, one pound of block-loaf sugar, half a pound of balm-of-Gilead buds.

Third, the requisite strength of the buds above named is to be obtained by slow distillation, according to the ordinary process, to be conducted as follows: The rum is to be applied to the buds and the sugar when they are in a dry state, and no other liquid is to be used. Being thus saturated with the rum, the healing properties of the buds and sugar are extracted by slow distillation, which should be continued for about five days. During the distillation the liquid should not be heated above about one hundred degrees (100°) of Fahrenheit, or what is called "blood heat." The temperature of the liquid should be kept as nearly equable as possible during the process of distillation. At the termination of the process of distillation, the liquor should be filtered, so as to leave a pure, clear liquid, which constitutes the medicine, and is ready for use. It may be preserved in bottles or otherwise, as is desired. Some other spirituous liquor besides Jamaica rum may be used, but I prefer that kind. The proportions of the ingredients used in compounding the medicine may be somewhat varied, but I prefer the proportions above stated.

Fourth, the mode of administering the medicine is as follows: For coughs and colds, and for restoring the tone and vigor of the nervous system, when prostrated or debilitated in the mode above stated, give to an adult person about a half of a gill before each meal, morning, noon, and night, and also just before going to bed at night. Give to a child, in the like circumstances, about one-third to one-half the above quantity.

Having thus described my medicine or composition of matter, what I claim as my invention or discovery, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The medicine herein described called "The American Cough Balm."

OSCAR G. DITMARS.

Witnesses:

HENRY STANTON;
ALFRED ARNOLD.