

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

REINHOLD KUSSEROW, OF BERLIN, GERMANY.

POULTICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 545,593, dated September 3, 1895.

Application filed May 1, 1895. Serial No. 547,723. (No specimens.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, REINHOLD KUSSEROW, a subject of the King of Prussia, German Emperor, and a resident of Berlin, in the Kingdom of Prussia and German Empire, have invented Improvements in Cataplasms or Poultices; and I do hereby declare the nature of the said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement thereof—that is to say—

This invention relates to a cataplasm or poultice.

While use has heretofore been made for cataplasms or poultices of oat-meal, linseed, or similar substances which give off the heat slowly and which are placed in a wrapper or cover, recourse has recently been had, for the sake of simplicity and cleanliness, to an artificial-meal cataplasm or poultice; but the latter has also been found to be inadequate, for all hot cataplasms or poultices employed up to the present time have the defect that they not only give off the heat unevenly, but retain the same for a very short time—that is to say, from about ten to at most thirty minutes. As compared with them, the cataplasm or poultice made according to my said invention possesses the great advantage of retaining the heat for hours, and also giving off the heat quite uniformly. Moreover the improved cataplasm or poultice is extremely simple and clean in use and in the handling and may be applied as long and as often as desired.

For producing this cataplasm or poultice I employ a bag, tube, or other cover of water-tight material. Into this cover is placed a mixture of linseed-meal and sodium acetate. It is expedient to take about twenty-five parts, by weight, of linseed-meal and seventy-five parts of sodium acetate; but it should be distinctly understood that the scope of my invention is not limited to these quantitative proportions. As found by experience, these proportions generally give the most advanta-

geous results, and they may be considerably modified, according to circumstances. After it has been filled the bag or other cover is closed, so as to be water-tight, and the cataplasm or poultice is in this state put in the market.

Prior to its use the cataplasm or poultice is put in boiling water, which is kept at the boiling-point until the contents are melted. According to the quantity of the mixture introduced into the bag or other cover, this operation will take about twenty to thirty minutes. After the lapse of three hours, the temperature of the cataplasm or poultice will still be about 50° centigrade, so that an extremely effective cataplasm or poultice having a uniform action is obtained for cases where it is desired to continuously conduct heat to any part of the body. For this purpose the cover is preferably made in the form adapted as much as possible to the part of the body to be treated.

In lieu of linseed-meal I may also use any of the other materials generally employed for cataplasms or poultices without departing from the nature or scope of my said invention.

The acetate of soda used is the ordinary acetate of soda of commerce, and not the dry acetate of soda. This ordinary acetate of soda crystallizes with three molecules of water, and when heated to about 60° centigrade melts, and upon again crystallizing gradually yields back the heat consumed in melting.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is—

A cataplasm or poultice consisting of a mixture of linseed meal and sodium acetate contained in a water-tight flexible cover.

REINHOLD KUSSEROW.

Witnesses:

LUDWIG KÖNIG,
MAX WAGNER.