(12) **United States Patent**
Gray

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(54) **OINTMENT, CURE OF DISEASES**

(76) Inventor: **William Waller Gray**

United States Patent

Patent No.: X8693

William Waller Gray of Richmond Virginia

Letters Patent dated March 16th 1835.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same containing a description in the words of said William Waller Gray himself of his improvement in an ointment for the cure of many external diseases

To all whom these presents shall come. Be it known that I William Waller Gray of the City of Richmond in the County of Henrico and State of Virginia have invented a new and useful improvement in an ointment for the cure of many external diseases Viz White Swellings. Ulcers of long standing. Fistulous Eruptions Burns & scalds. old and fresh wounds Felons and Glandular Swellings &c. &c. and that the following is a full and exact description of the construction and operation of said Ointment as invented or improved by me.

Receipt and mode of preparing the Ointment.

One Gallon Cotton seed Oil. one Gallon Linseed oil. one quart of secret oil pure. One quart Canada Balsam. one lb of Fat two pounds of Mutton Suet. one pound Bees wax and five pounds Sugar of Lead. The Cotton seed and Linseed oils to be put into an iron Kettle sufficiently large to hold 14 or 16 gallons the kettle to be hung on a crane over a fire of charcoal in a Composition or Iron Furnace the heat of which may be regulated by lowering or shutting down the dampers. The oils should be slowly boiled or simmered for five or six hours, but never so much heated as to burn or destroy the gummy substances. Previous to introducing the Sugar of Lead however the heat of the oils should be considerably increased until it will scorch and blacken the feather or pinchbeck quill the head of a common goose quill very quickly. In this stage of the oil the lead may be introduced after being finely ground in a mortar of some kind as fine as flour if possible. and then passed through a fine hair sieve. One person should stir the oils while another should throw in the lead in small quantities through a tin pot made like pepper

gel. after the lead is introduced, (which should require at least one hour) the mutton suet and Beeswax must be put in and the stirring continued over a moderate fire one half hour longer. When the heat is great and the lead introduced it is sometimes difficult to keep the oils within the kettle therefore by means of a crane the kettle may be easy promptly removed from the fire, and if necessary the oils may be dipped out with an iron ladle and put into large earthen or crockery pans and when the heat during stirring or agitation subsides the oils from the pans may be returned to the kettle. and the stirring continued until the process is completed. After this work is done take the kettle down. let the materials get somewhat cool. and then pour the sweet oil and Canada Balsam (mixed together) into the ointment taking care not to let the heat be so great as to make these last mentioned ingredients evaporate. This completes the whole process. The ointment should then be dipped out of the kettle strained through a fine wire sifter into crockery or fireproof pans and there remain until the day following. when it may be warmed and made sufficiently thin to be put into pots by means of a tin cup with a lip or spout. The pots should be well corked and sealed or the ointment will work out through every aperture. The cork should never penetrate the mouth of the pot so far as to touch or press upon the ointment. The tin pot mentioned above should be made large enough to contain a pint and the holes in the top made as small as that of a pepper pot.

Mode of applying the Ointment. For an Ulcer. Tumor. Burn or Fistula that discharges much matter. apply fresh ointment on soft linen or cotton once in 24 hours. but if frequently necessary in order to remove the plaster in the course of the day and wash away the matter drawn to the surface by the active operation of the ointment. for which purpose a soft dry linen or cotton rag must be used. taking care at the same time not to wash or use water about the wound in any manner in order to keep it under the influence of the ointment.

The discharge of matter from a corrupt wound of long standing is generally very large at first and in some cases of this kind it may be advisable to apply fresh ointment twice a day the morning and night in

order to expedite the work of cleansing as well as to subdue the inflammation and prevent mortification. When the affected part is thoroughly drained, a disposition to heal is generally manifested by a discharge of white healthy matter. the edges become flat and white and the centre filling up with small red pimples of sound flesh. In this stage of the wound apply the ointment once in 48 hours and cleanse once in 24 as above directed. In ulcers produced by mercury the Sarsaparilla drink should also be used in order to create a free discharge of the poisonous matter. This drink can be procured of the druggists generally. For inflamations swellings fresh wounds sprains or burns, once in 24 hours will be often enough to apply the ointment. If applied to the sore breast of a female it can be rendered more mild if necessary by spreading a small quantity of mutton suet on each plaster and mixing it well by heating. The materials being of the purest kind no injury whatever can arise from the use of this ointment; nor can there be the least liability to cold at any season. In relation to long standing and deeply rooted sores of any kind I particularly recommend that the plaster be spread large enough to cover the whole inflamed part. in fact should the wound be situated about the middle of the leg then wrap the same in ointment from the knee to the foot until the inflamation be completely subdued, and should mortification be apprehended let the plaster be made warm in order that its effects may be rendered more active and powerful. In the snake bites this course is strenuously urged taking care first to scarify the neighbourhood of the part bitten. The spider bite if not early treated will extend to the bones form a core and sometimes produce deep ulcerations. For soreness about the breast spread a plaster large enough to cover the whole chest also apply one between the shoulders. The ointment is an excellent dressing to follow a blister in order to create a suppuration and thereby more effectually relieve the part affected by pain particularly in cases of pleurisy. Some cases of ulcer and scrofula I know will require the ointment for months perhaps before a thorough cleansing can be effected. Therefore patience and perseverance must be exercised with great regularity in the dressing while strict attention should be paid to diet in order to prevent the system from

Liniment very great. This Liniment possesses three very desirable properties, Viz. It subdues the inflammation, causes a free discharge of the corrupt matter and creates a healing of the affected part at the same time, while it is extremely mild in its operation. In early stages of inflammatory rheumatism, soreness produced by cold (cramp Colic) about the breast from my own experience, this article stands unrivalled. It is soothing yet so stimulating that in the course of two hours the system is thrown into a gentle perspiration and all pain or soreness is rapidly removed. In fresh wounds the flesh being sound healing immediately takes place. In old and corrupt sores the liniment removes the cause and heals. In the bites of man, dog, snake and Spider I have ample evidence of its efficacy. And in all the diseases for which it is recommended to virtue has been tested under my own supervision and in support of it I stake my reputation. A Specimen of the oil cloth on which it should be applied accompanying these directions, which may be cleaned and redressed for a month should a case require treatment for so long a time — Note. The oil may be stirred with a paddle.

Witness
Robert Bone
Geo J Binford.

William Waller Gray
Richmond June 15th 1833

(1469 words)