

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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MEDICINAL PREPARATION

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This invention relates to a medicinal preparation.

The object of the invention is to provide a novel medicinal preparation for use as a beneficial penetrant and inhalant in the treatment of colds, congestion in the chest and throat, and for affording relief to many mild pains, such as those produced by neuralgia and strains, and the present preparation is characterized by its solid stainless form which facilitates the application and use thereof, and by the potency, and lasting qualities of its odor and vapor, enabling more beneficial effects to be obtained than with other preparations of this general character of which I am aware.

With this general object in view, and such others as may hereinafter appear, the invention consists in the medicinal preparation hereinafter described and particularly defined in the claims at the end of this specification.

Prior to the present invention various medicinal preparations have been used as rubs in the treatment of colds and congestion in the chest and throat, and such preparations have comprised, as far as I am aware, camphor and menthol, together with one or more essential oils, in a petrolatum base. The character of the base employed in such preparations renders the application of the preparation objectionable in some instances because of the grease and the stains left on the clothing or bedding coming in contact with the applied preparation. In order to satisfactorily employ such preparations as inhalants for the treatment of inflammation in the respiratory passages, the application of heat to the preparation has been prescribed in order to release the desired vapors to obtain the best relief.

The present invention contemplates a medicinal preparation for use in the treatment of colds and congestion in the chest and throat by external application and also which may be used as a successful inhalant in the treatment of inflammation in the respiratory passages without the necessity of the application of heat to effect satisfactory release of the necessary amounts of vapors from the counter-irritants and essential oils embodied in the preparation.

I have found that a most satisfactory base in which the counter-irritants and essential oils may be embodied comprises an alcoholic solution of a soap. This base has been found to increase by many times the potency of the vapors from the essential oils and from the counter-irritants as well as the pungency thereof, and in addition appears to act as a fixative for the odors and vapors

from the essential oils and counter-irritants, thereby effectively maintaining the preparation after application in efficient vapor emitting condition for far greater periods of time than comparative preparations in which a petrolatum base has been used. The fixative properties of the particular base employed in the present preparation also contribute to the successful use of the present preparation as an inhalant.

In producing a medicinal preparation embodying the present invention the following ingredients in the following proportions are preferably employed although it is to be clearly understood that other counter-irritants may be employed as well as other essential oils and alcoholic solutions of other soaps.

Menthol	4	parts by weight	
Camphor	8	parts by weight	
Oil of turpentine	4	parts by volume	
Oil of eucalyptus	2	parts by volume	
Oil of thyme (white)	1	part by volume	
Alcohol	78.5	parts by volume	
Stearic acid	4.87	parts by weight	
Sodium hydroxide	1.1	parts by weight	
Amber dye solution	2.5	parts by volume	

In accordance with the preferred process, the 4.87 parts by weight of stearic acid are dissolved in 62.8 parts of alcohol, the latter representing 80% of the total amount of alcohol to be used in the completed product. 1.1 parts by weight of sodium hydroxide are then dissolved in 15.7 parts by volume of alcohol, the latter representing 20% of the total amount of alcohol to be contained in the finished product. The stearic acid solution and the sodium hydroxide solution are then separately warmed to approximately 60° C. and then mixed together. During the digestion of the mixture of the stearic acid solution and the sodium hydroxide solution and the formation of a soap, the camphor, menthol, the oil of turpentine, the oil of eucalyptus, the oil of thyme, and the dye solution, in the proportions set forth, may be mixed into the preparation, and the mass thoroughly stirred until the ingredients are dissolved. The temperature of the mass is preferably maintained at 60° C. during the entire mixing operation. After complete solution of the ingredients has been effected, then the hot liquid may be molded at room temperature, preferably into the form of cylindrical sticks, and after the lapse of a few minutes the mass solidifies in the mold in the form of a stick.

The present medicinal preparation produced as above described and embodying the amber dye

solution resembles a cake or stick of solid vaseline and is characterized by the potent odor of the counter-irritants and essential oils embodied therein. In the treatment of colds and congestion in the throat and chest the preparation is applied externally, and when rubbed on the skin the contacting portions of the cake liquify under the heat of the body, enabling very efficient application of an alcoholic solution of the ingredients to be applied. Because of the fact that the ingredients are readily soluble in the alcohol, an even distribution of the ingredients is obtained throughout the alcoholic solution, and as a result upon application a very even distribution of the ingredients over the surface of the skin is obtained. The alcohol produces a beneficial effect upon the surface of the skin, contributing to the ease and efficiency with which the counter-irritants are enabled to penetrate into the skin, and as a result a characteristic sensation of cooling followed by a slight feeling of warmth and a flushing of the skin is experienced by the patient. As a result most efficient counter-irritation is produced, setting up nervous reflexes from the skin and producing beneficial results to the patient in relieving the cold and congestion.

One advantage of the present preparation resides in the fact that it may be applied without liability of staining the bedding or clothing with which it may come in contact, and in addition its application is much more pleasing than the application of the greasy petrolatum base preparations heretofore used. In addition, after application the thin film covering the skin is practically invisible, thus enabling the preparation to be conveniently applied to the forehead and other parts of the face and neck during business hours and without embarrassment to the patient.

When used as an inhalant the present preparation may be either applied directly to a portion of the body or may be applied to a handkerchief or pillow without any liability of soiling, and the character of the ingredients of the present preparation contributes greatly to the efficiency of the material both as an inhalant and as a penetrant. Experience has shown that the present preparation possesses the property of holding the vapors and odors of the essential oils and of the counter-irritants for several times as long as prior comparative preparations, utilizing the petrolatum base, and I attribute this result to the action of the alcoholic solution of soap acting as a fixative for the counter-irritants and essential oils. As a result, after application the patient is exposed to the fumes from the preparation for a relatively long period of time, so that exceedingly beneficial results have been obtained. In addition to the lasting properties of the preparation, the alcoholic soap solution contributes to the potency of the vapors given off, and comparative tests have shown that the potency is several times that of comparative prior preparations embodying a petrolatum base. I attribute this result to the action of the alcohol in completely dissolving the

counter-irritants and essential oils and the vapors of the alcohol along with the vapors of the counter-irritants and essential oils produces an extremely potent odor and vapor which appears to have very beneficial results in the treatment of colds exceeding those attained using comparative amounts of these ingredients in a petrolatum base, the effect of the latter base tending to retard the vaporizing effect of the ingredients.

In addition to the use of the present preparation as an effective rub and penetrant, and in addition to its use as an inhalant alone or as a combined inhalant and rub, the present preparation possesses characteristics which render its use valuable as a liniment in the treatment of mild pains such as neuralgia and in the treatment of sprains and the like, and upon application and rubbing into the affected part, the alcoholic solution of the counter-irritants and essential oils penetrates well and offers substantial relief to the ailment.

While it is preferred to produce a medicinal preparation embodying menthol and camphor and the essential oils, it is to be understood that not only may the foregoing proportions be varied, but also for some purposes the essential oils may be omitted and also either the menthol or the camphor may be omitted, producing preparations having substantial utility in the treatment of colds, congestion in the chest and throat, and for affording relief to many mild pains.

While the preferred embodiment of the invention has been herein illustrated and described, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied in other forms within the scope of the following claims.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A medicinal preparation for application to the skin as a penetrant and also for use as an inhalant, comprising an alcoholic solution of a soap in solidified form having dissolved therein a counter-irritant and menthol, and capable of liquification upon application to the skin under the influence of body heat to thereby deposit thereon a film.

2. A medicinal preparation for application to the skin as a penetrant and also useful as an inhalant comprising an alcoholic solution of a soap in solidified form having dissolved therein camphor, menthol, oil of turpentine, oil of eucalyptus and oil of thyme, and capable of liquification upon application to the skin under the influence of body heat to thereby deposit thereon a film.

3. A medicinal preparation for application to the skin as a penetrant and also useful as an inhalant, said preparation comprising an alcoholic solution of a soap in solidified form having dissolved therein an inhalant and a counter-irritant, said base possessing fixative properties for retarding rapid dissipation of the vapors emitted therefrom.

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