

Cataplasma Sinapis, 1851.

R Aquæ Ferventis, uncias decem
 Lini Semin. contrit.
 Sinapis contrit. sing. uncias duas cum semisse vel
 quantum satis sit.

Pulveres prius inter se mixtos, aquæ paulatim adjice movens ut fiat cataplasma.

Mr. Phillips, in his translation of the Pharmacopœia of 1851, remarked, in reference to this preparation, "that the vinegar directed in the former Pharmacopœias was useless, if not injurious, to the excitant effect of the mustard." He also adds some caustic observations on mustard; he says that both varieties of mustard, black and white, are extensively cultivated in this country for preparing that much used condiment 'flour of mustard,' which is at the best flour of the seed mixed with wheaten flour, powdered capsicums and turmeric, and at the worst wholly destitute of mustard flour, consisting of the damaged flour of the cereals, etc., colored by turmeric and rendered stinging by capsicum."

I shall at this stage of the subject allude to a preparation introduced into the Pharmacopœia of 1809, and continued to that of 1851, in which mustard played an important part.

Infus. Armoraciæ Comp. 1809 to 1851.

R Armor. Rad. recent. concis.
 Sinapis Sem. contus. sing. unciam
 Aquæ Ferventis octavium.

Macera per horas duas in vase leviter clauso et cola, tum adjice Spt. Armoraciæ Comp. unciam.

This infusion was prescribed as a stimulant in paralysis.

In a paper read before this Society in 1845 (*Pharm. Journ.* Vol. V. 1st series, p. 62), I directed attention to the fact that if this infusion be made with boiling water, care being taken that the vessel used is of the same temperature, the result will be quite devoid of pungency, and consequently without value as a therapeutic agent. I then stated that "it is of the utmost importance that the laws which govern the formation of this volatile oil should be well understood." This infusion has been omitted since the Pharmacopœia of 1851.

We now arrive at the British Pharmacopœia, and find that both black and white mustard continue official, and that there is a further slight alteration, not in the ingredients or their proportions, but in the directions for making the mustard cataplasma.

Cataplasma Sinapis.

Take of—

Mustard in powder	2½ oz.
Linseed Meal	2½ oz.
Boiling Water	10 fluid oz.