

THE MUSTARD OF THE PHARMACOPŒIA.*

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It might be thought by many persons that this subject is scarcely one suitable for a pharmaceutical meeting, but mustard holds a place in our materia mēdica, and enters into one of the preparations of the Pharmacopœia, the cataplasma sinapis. It is to mustard, in connection with this preparation, that I shall chiefly confine my remarks.

The mustard cataplasm is a therapeutic agent of great value, resorted to in a period of emergency, and frequently in the absence of medical aid; and if any further justification were necessary, I may add this fact also, that Dr. Redwood has mentioned 'Charta Sinapis' as likely to form part of the forthcoming Appendix to the British Pharmacopœia.

Mustard was first introduced into the Pharmacopœia of 1788, in the formula for cataplasma sinapis, the official mustard was the *Sinapis nigra*.

Cataplasma Sinapeos, 1788.

℞ Seminum Sinapeos pulverum tritorum
 Medullæ Panis sing. p, libram dimid.
 Aceti quantum satis sit.

Misce ut fiat cataplasma.

In the next Pharmacopœia, that of 1809, the official mustard being still *Sinapis nigra*, the formula was altered.

" *Cataplasma Sinapis, 1809.*

R Sinapis Seminum
 Lini usitatissimi Sem.
 Singulorum contrit. libram dimid.
 Aceti Calid. q. s.

Ft. Cataplasma.

It will be observed that linseed is substituted for the breadcrumb, and the vinegar is directed to be boiling.

In the Pharmacopœia of 1824, and the one following, 1836, there was no alteration made either in the official mustard or the formula for the cataplasm; but in the edition of 1851, black and white mustard became official, and the cataplasm was ordered to be made with boiling water instead of vinegar.

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