

# [A Plaster to Treat Liver Pain] Dr. William James Almon

**Date:** Late 18th century; exact date unknown. | 1790/01/01 to 1800/01/01

Contributors

Contributor Role

Compiler

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Dr. William James Almon

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Author

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John Sabatier

Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

pain

tumefaction

costiveness

uneasiness

inspipated bile

Ingredients

mercurial ointment

hog's lard

opium powder

opium

leather

sticking salve

calomel

Places

Bath

England

Halifax

Nova Scotia

**Source:** Manuscript Notebook of Dr. William James Almon

**Institution:** Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Almon Family Fonds | **Reference:** MG 1 / Microfilm Reel 10,045

## Description

A recipe from Mr. John Sabatier of Bath for a salve used in a plaster applied to treat liver pain arising from blocked bile ducts, p. 265.

## Transcription

1March 17th 1800.Extract of a letter from Mr. John Sabatier dated Bath\_  
My complaint was a constant pain more or less  
Violent on the region of the Liver attended  
sometimes with tumefaction, and costiveness; it  
arose from inspitated bile that would not pass  
through the ducts. [Calomel](#) afforded but temporary  
relief. Mere Ointment rubb'd in none.\_ Since July  
last the following plaster which I renew every  
week or ten days and keep constantly on the part  
has entirely removed all pain and uneasiness what-  
ever and acts as a gentle and constant Cathartic  
rendering all in internal Medicines unnecessary--  
Instead of taking half a Pill or one every night  
I dont take one in three Months

### Recipe

$\frac{2}{3}$ <sup>rds</sup> Mercurial Ointment the Usual sort  
trituated with hogs lard mixd with  
 $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>d</sup> best Opium in powder laid thick on the  
centre of a thick Leather the size of a crown  
piece \_ the Margin of which must be spread  
with sticking salve of the same size to make it  
adhere to be applied separately in as many  
places as the pain is felt  
I have never known this application affect the  
Mouth

## Annotations

### [Calomel](#)

Mercury chloride, once used as a purgative as well as an insecticide and fungicide.

A Plaster to Treat Liver Pain recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/190>