

[Blumer's pills] Thomas Wright

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Contributors

Contributor Role

Compiler

Contributor Name

Thomas Wright

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Medicine

Ingredients

golden sulphur of antimony

calomel

guyaic gum

guaiaicum gum

guaiaicum resin

balsam capivi

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Description

A recipe for pills. All uses of this image other than research or private study require written permission from the Public Archives and Records Office of Prince Edward Island.

Transcription

Blumer's pills

Take Golden Sulpher of Antimony and of [Calomel](#) unpre-

-pared of each two Drams, the [Calomel](#) being reduced into a coarse powder is to be [levigated](#) adding now & then a little of the Sulpher of Antimony, grind them well together into a very fine powder. Then take of the aforegoing powder half an Ounce, of Gum [Guaiac](#), 8 Drams of Resin of Guaica one Dram, of balsam [Capyvi](#) as much as will make them into pills; of every Dram make 12 pills.

Annotations

[Calomel](#)

According to examples from 1676-1863, "Mercurous chloride, or 'protochloride' of mercury ($\text{Hg}_2 \text{Cl}_2$); a preparation much used in medicine in the form of a white powder with a yellow tinge, becoming grey on exposure to light" (OED).

[levigated](#)

Levigate (v.) is "To make smooth; to polish" (OED).

[Guaiac](#)

A genus of flowering plants native to the subtropical and tropical regions of America, guaiacum was introduced to Europe in the sixteenth century and used to treat a variety of ailments, including syphilis. (Also guajacum)

[Capyvi](#)

A Manual of Materia Medica, by John Aikin (1785), defines balsam capivi as "a liquid exudation from the *Copaisera officinalis* Linn, a tree growing in Brazil (31).

Blumer's pills recipe from Early Modern Maritime Recipes: <https://emmr.lib.unb.ca/recipes/538>