

## **Specification of William Palmer : coating pills.**

### **Contributors**

Palmer, William.

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A.D. 1843 . . . . . N° 9954.

S P E C I F I C A T I O N

OF

WILLIAM PALMER.

COATING PILLS.

LONDON:

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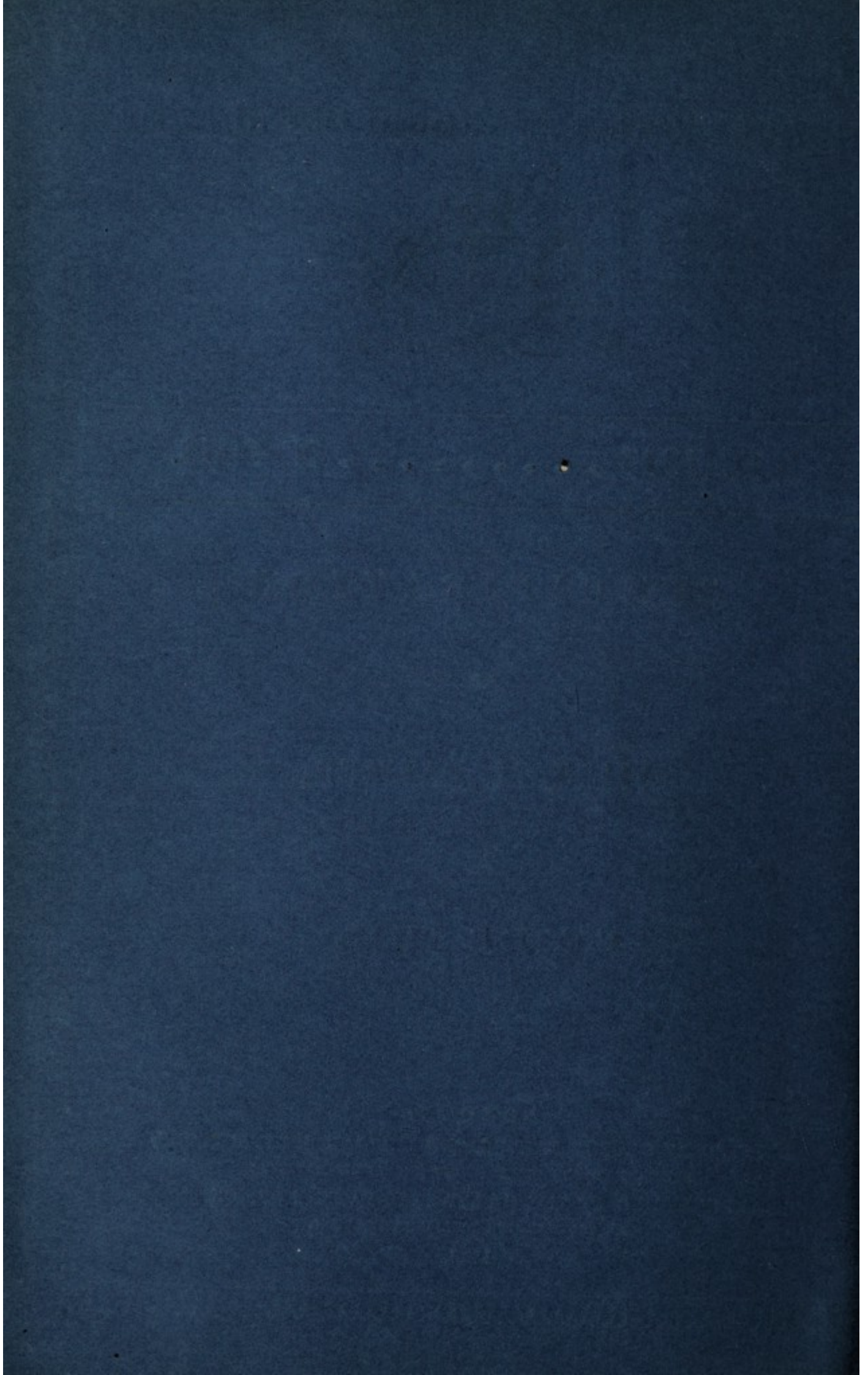
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A.D. 1843 . . . . . N° 9954.

Coating Pills.

PALMER'S SPECIFICATION.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, WILLIAM PALMER, of Sutton Street, Clerkenwell, in the County of Middlesex, Manufacturer, send greeting.

WHEREAS Her present most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her  
5 Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, bearing date at Westminster, the Twenty-first day of November, in the seventh year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said William Palmer, Her especial licence, full power, sole privilege and authority, that I, the said William Palmer, my eñors, adñors, and assigns, or such  
10 others as I, the said William Palmer, my eñors, adñors, or assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times during the term of years therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within England, Wales, and the Town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, my Invention of "IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF PILLS;" in  
15 which said Letters Patent is contained a proviso, that I, the said William Palmer, shall cause a particular description of the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be inrolled in Her said Majesty's High Court of Chancery within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said in part recited Letters Patent, as in

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*Palmer's Improvements in the Manufacture of Pills.*

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and by the same, reference being thereunto had, will more fully and at large appear.

**NOW KNOW YE**, that in compliance with the said proviso, I, the said William Palmer do hereby declare that the nature of my said Invention, and the manner in which the same is to be performed, are fully described 5 and ascertained in and by the following statement thereof, reference being had to the Drawing hereunto annexed, and to the figures and letters marked thereon (that is to say):—

My Invention relates to the covering of pills with a coating of gelatine or other suitable adhesive matter when in a liquid state, and also causing the 10 powder to adhere by adhesive fluid. And in order that the Invention may be most fully understood, and readily carried into effect, I will proceed to explain the means pursued by me.

The pills, being formed, are to be submitted to gelatine or other adhesive matter, which when dry will offer a perfect covering to the pills, rendering the 15 surfaces smooth, and for the most part preventing taste in taking them. The coating of pills with fluid gelatine or other suitable adhesive matter may be accomplished in various ways, but it is important that they should be done on a large scale and at small cost; I have therefore devised apparatus for facilitating the process of coating pills with matter when in a fluid state. 20 The matter I prefer to use is the best gelatine, which being rendered fluid, and kept sufficiently warm for the purpose, I place in the trough *a*, which is divided into numerous compartments; into these compartments the fluid coating matter is placed. The trough *a* slides along the trough *b*, which contains sweet oil, and has a sieve *b*<sup>1</sup>, fitted into it, which when covered for 25 the most part with pills which have been coated with gelatine is raised out of the oil trough, and the pills thus drained are dried on the sieve. The trough *a* has pills supplied one to each of its divisions or compartments *a*<sup>1</sup>, by means of the apparatus *c*, which is divided into as many compartments as there are compartments *a*<sup>1</sup>, in the trough *a*. The pills having been introduced into *c*, 30 that apparatus is raised and the pills run off into the compartments of the trough *a*, where they remain only for a short time, and are then all drawn out by means of the instrument or rake *d*, the workman allowing the pills to drain for a short time when they have been raised out of the gelatine; he then draws them over and allows them to drop into the oil and on to the sieve *b*<sup>1</sup>. 35 The trough *a* is then slid, and a fresh quantity of pills treated in the same manner, till the whole surface of the sieve is nearly covered with pills without touching each other, when the sieve is withdrawn, allowing the oil to drain

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*Palmer's Improvements in the Manufacture of Pills.*

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well through, when the same is to be suspended in any convenient room, in order that the pills may become well dried, when the oil is removed by rolling the pills between surfaces of calico, or other fabric, or by other means, when they are ready for packing away for use. The pills may have more than  
5 one coating where the nature of the medicine requires it; and I have found it desirable when the pills are made, and still in a damp state, to roll them in dry flour, which aids in preventing the gelatine melting the surface. There are other means of drying the pills when coated with gelatine in place of immersing them in oil, though I believe that process to be the most convenient. Thus in  
10 some cases, having obtained a coating of gelatine, I cause them to fall into dry flour, the vessel containing it being kept constantly agitated, so that the pills do not remain stationary till the gelatine is well set, and when dry much of the flour may be rubbed off.

When it is desired to coat pills with a matter of a fatty character, I prefer  
15 to use spermaceti, reduced with sufficient sweet oil that when dry on the pills it may not crack off; and having submitted the pills to this matter when in a melted and fluid state I withdraw them therefrom, and when the coating matter is beginning to set I allow them to drop from a considerable height into water (or they may roll down on to an inclined plane into any convenient receptacle),  
20 from which they are quickly removed on a sieve, in like manner to that above described, and drained and dried, when they are ready to be packed away in boxes or otherwise for use.

I would here remark that there are other materials which may be used when in a fluid state for coating pills, and other means may be resorted to for  
25 accomplishing the coating; I do not, therefore, confine myself to the materials herein described, nor to the means herein recommended, but I believe them to be the best for the purpose.

Having thus described the nature of my Invention, I would have it understood that what I claim is, the mode of coating pills by causing them to be  
30 submitted to gelatine, fatty, or other suitable matter when in a fluid state, and also the coating pills with fine powder when they have been previously submitted to an adhesive fluid.

In witness whereof, I, the said William Palmer, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord  
35 One thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

W<sup>M</sup> (L.S.) PALMER.

*Palmer's Improvements in the Manufacture of Pills.*

HORNE.

AND BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the Twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord 1844, the aforesaid William Palmer came before our said Lady the Queen in Her Chancery, and acknowledged the Specification aforesaid, and all and every thing therein contained and specified, in form above written. And also the Specification aforesaid was stamped according to the 5 tenor of the Statute made for that purpose.

Enrolled the Twenty-first day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1856.

