

# **Specification of Alfred Markwick : manufacture of epithems for medical and surgical purposes.**

## **Contributors**

Markwick, Alfred, 1822?-1881.

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>



A.D. 1846 . . . . . N° 11,213.

SPECIFICATION

OF

ALFRED MARKWICK.

MANUFACTURE OF EPITHEMS FOR  
MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PURPOSES.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
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**Manufacture of Epithems for Medical and Surgical  
Purposes.**

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**MARKWICK'S SPECIFICATION.**

**TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, ALFRED MARKWICK, of Langham Place, in the County of Middlesex, Surgeon, send greeting.**

**WHEREAS** Her present most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her  
5 Royal Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great  
Britain and Ireland, bearing date at Westminster, the Twentieth day of  
May, in the ninth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors,  
give and grant unto me, the said Alfred Markwick, my exors, admors, and  
assigns, Her especial licence, full power, sole privilege and authority, that I,  
10 the said Alfred Markwick, my exors, admors, and assigns, or such others  
as I, the said Alfred Markwick, my exors, admors, 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-  
15 upon-Tweed, the Invention of "IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MANUFACTURE OF  
EPITHEMS USED FOR MEDICAL AND SURGICAL PURPOSES," partly communicated to  
me from a Foreigner, and partly invented by myself; in which said Letters  
Patent is contained a proviso that I, the said Alfred Markwick, should cause a  
particular description of the nature of the nature of the said Invention, and in  
20 what manner the same is to be performed, by an instrument in writing under  
my hand and seal, 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 and by the same, reference being thereunto  
had, will more fully and at large appear.

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*Markwick's Improvements in the Manufacture of Epithems.*

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NOW KNOW YE, that in compliance with the said proviso, I, the said Alfred Markwick, do hereby declare that the nature of the said Invention, and the manner in which the same is to be performed, are fully described and ascertained in and by the following statement thereof, that is to say :—

The Invention has for its object the manufacture of epithems by applying in 5 their construction certain prepared surfaces or fabrics hereafter explained. And in order that the Invention may be most fully understood and readily carried into effect, I will proceed to describe the means pursued by me. And in doing so I will first explain the making of epithems suitable for applying fomentations, lotions, embrocations, or other fluids or preparations to the 10 surface of the humone or animal body for medical and surgical purposes. In carrying out this part of the Invention the object to be obtained is a porous surface made up of fibrous materials where it comes next the body, and impermeable on the opposite or back surface. And in preparing such porous surfaces, sponge, or sponge and fibrous materials, or fibrous materials 15 alone, are used with india rubber, gutta percha, or other impermeable matter. When sponge is used it is cut into thin slices, which may readily be done by pressing it between two surfaces, allowing as much to protrude as the thickness desired, and then by a sharp knife to make the cut, and I use for this purpose a knife with a serated edge, the whole of the edges of the teeth 20 being sharpened as a knife. The slices of sponge thus obtained are spread evenly over a flat surface, and a coating of dissolved india rubber (caoutchouc) or of gutta percha is applied thereto and allowed to dry, and a succession of coatings are to be applied till an impermeable surface has been obtained, or an impermeable surface to the sponge may be otherwise produced. By the 25 means above described a porous surface for going against the body will be obtained, having an impermeable surface externally, or for going against the dress or other covering of the person, or of that part of the person where an epithem is applied. Or, in place of preparing the porous surface of an epithem wholly of sponge, I sometimes combine the use of sponge with 30 fibrous material, in which case the sponge is reduced into very small pieces, and I have found the best means of doing so is to submit it to the action of a paper engine, and such reduced sponge I then mix with wool or other felting fibre, and cause the fibres to be slightly felted, so that a porous surface may be obtained which will hold together, and other fibrous matters may be 35 mixed therewith, so long as the felting properties of the felting fibres are not overcome by the non-felting materials, all which is well understood in preparing felted fabrics. The fabric thus composed is then to have one of its surfaces coated with a solution of india rubber or of gutta percha, or to be otherwise

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*Markwick's Improvements in the Manufacture of Epithems.*

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rendered impermeable, as before explained when using sponge without fibres. Or, in place of the porous preparations above explained, fibrous matters alone be used, in which case wool or other felting fibres are employed either alone or in combination with non-felting fibres, such as cotton, silk waste, or others,  
5 so that the non-felting matters will not be too much for the felting ones, as is well understood. The object is to get a surface slightly matted or felted together which shall be as porous and open as possible, and to this product I apply a surface of india rubber, gutta percha, or other impermeable matter, as above explained, and portions of such fabrics so prepared in sheets (having the  
10 one side porous, and the other side impermeable to fluid) are to be cut out, and by strings or bandages of any required size and shape, they are to be attached to the part of the body to be treated, the epithems so made being first charged with lotion or other fluid or matter, according to the requirement of the particular case. In some cases only warmth is required to be obtained  
15 in a particular locality, such for instance as the chest, in which cases the use of fibres with an impermeable surface, as above explained, may be resorted to, and then, if not for temporary use, I prefer to cover the back of the epithem with silk or other such fabric, and in those cases where it is desired that the epithem so manufactured should be permeable to the perspiration of the body,  
20 then I puncture the same with numerous holes; and perforated epithems are also useful in cases where the lotions or liquids used are required to evaporate freely.

Having thus described the nature of the Invention, and the manner in which the same is to be performed, I would wish it to be understood that I do  
25 not confine myself to the details herein described, so long as the peculiar character of the Invention be retained. But what I claim is,—

First, the mode of manufacturing epithems by employing sponge with suitable impermeable back surface, as herein described.

Secondly, I claim the mode of manufacturing epithems by employing  
30 sponge combined with fibrous materials, with suitable impermeable back surface, as herein described. And,

Thirdly, I claim the mode of manufacturing epithems, by employing fibrous materials, so as to produce a porous surface with suitable impermeable back surface, as above described.

35 In witness whereof, I, the said Alfred Markwick, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

ALFRED (L.S.) MARKWICK.

*Markwick's Improvements in the Manufacture of Epithems.*

BROUGHAM.

AND BE IT REMEMBERED, that on the Eighteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord 1846, the aforesaid Alfred Markwick 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 Twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty-six.

LONDON :

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty. 1857.