

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

IRA M. PHELPS, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO JOHN H. SCOTT, JR., OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN PERMANENT FLOUR OF CAMPHOR.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 164,478, dated June 15, 1875; application filed April 24, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, IRA M. PHELPS, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Permanent Flour of Camphor; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

The object of this invention is to furnish a permanent flour of camphor for compounding with other medicines, and also to be used in a compact form for retailing.

To accomplish this object upon a large scale I proceed as follows: Crude camphor is reduced to a coarse powder, to which about one per cent. of glycerine is added. Unslaked lime may be added, as in the process of making the refined camphor of commerce. Thus prepared, the camphor is put into an iron still, and distilled over into a large box or receiver, at any temperature between the melting and boiling points. The glycerine, uniting with the water in the camphor, and also with the hot camphor itself, is distilled over into the receiver, leaving therein minute particles or crystals of camphor, and, unlike the pulverized camphor of commerce, its tendency to solidify or recrystallize is very feeble, if not entirely absent.

When no glycerine is used (the other conditions being the same) the crystals are much

larger, resembling snow-flakes, and the tendency to rapid evaporation and recrystallization is much greater.

Glycerinated camphor thus produced may be compressed into small blocks or cakes for convenient transportation, handling, and retailing, the two forms meeting the various wants of druggists and consumers.

The glycerinated camphor is condensed into blocks by pressure, applied by suitable mechanism, in order to prevent volatilization, which would occur if not so condensed, and at the same time the camphor so treated is not unfitted for officinal preparations, and can be used in prescriptions.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The process of making pulverulent camphor, consisting in subliming crude camphor, in combination with glycerine, substantially as described.

2. As a new article of manufacture, glycerinated camphor condensed in blocks, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

IRA M. PHELPS.

Witnesses:

ALLEN H. GANGEWER,
EMILE L. PERDRIANE.