

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LUCINDA A. BUCKNAM, OF NEEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS.

METHOD OF PREPARING ABSORBENT COTTON.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 227,480, dated May 11, 1880.

Application filed January 8, 1880.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LUCINDA A. BUCKNAM, of Needham, Massachusetts, have invented a certain Compound called "Absorbent Cotton," to be used in dressing wounds and for all surgical purposes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention consists in a composition formed as follows, to wit:

- 10 To prepare the cotton, take four pounds clean raw cotton, break and card it. Then dissolve two pounds of chloride of lime in thirty-two quarts of boiling water, (in a vessel of wood or stone.) After dissolving well put the
- 15 cotton in the solution and stir it for twenty minutes, so as to have it well saturated. Then take out the cotton and rinse it thoroughly in hot water, changing the water three times. Then dissolve two pounds of sal-soda in forty

quarts of hot water. Put the cotton in the solution, stir it well, let it stand ten minutes, then rinse thoroughly in hot water, changing the water four times; then dry it and card it, and it is ready for use.

This absorbent cotton will sink immediately in water, blood, matter, or other fluid where an absorbent is needed.

I claim—

The method of preparing cotton as an absorbent for surgical purposes, consisting in subjecting it first to a bath of chloride-of-lime solution, then rinsing in water, afterward subjecting to a bath of solution of caustic soda, and again rinsing, as set forth.

LUCINDA A. BUCKNAM.

Witnesses:

CHAS. S. CONANT,
JENNIE E. PIERCE.