gum is the ſtrongeſt and moſt ſubſtantial, and the Arabic the pureſt and fineſt.

3. TRAGACANTHA *Ph. Lond. & Edinb.* *Gummi tragacanthæ & dragacanthæ.* Gum tragacanth or dragant: the gum exuding from a prickly buſh of the ſame name, (*tragacantha C. B.* goats thorn; *tragacantha cretica incana flore parvo lineis purpureis ſtriato Tour.*) which grows wild in the warmer climates, and endures the cold of our own, but does not here yield any gum. This commodity is brought chiefly from Turkey, in irregular lumps, or long vermicular pieces bent into a variety of ſhapes: the beſt ſort is white, ſemitranſparent, dry, yet ſomewhat ſoft to the touch.

Gum tragacanth differs from all the other known gums, in being much ſtronger, or giving a thick conſiſtence to a much larger quantity of water; and in being much more difficultly diſſoluble, or rather diſſolving only imperfectly. Put into water, it ſlowly imbibes a great quantity of the liquid, ſwells into a large volume, and forms a ſoft but not fluid mucilage: if more water be added, a fluid ſolution may be obtained by agitation, but the liquor looks turbid and wheyiſh, and on ſtanding the mucilage ſubſides. Nor does the admixture of the preceding more ſoluble gums promote its union with the water, or render its diſſolution more durable.

Tragacanth, as being by far the ſtrongeſt of the gums, is uſually preferred to the others for making up troches, and other like purpoſes, and appears likewiſe to be the moſt effectual as a medicine; but on account of its imperfect ſolubility is unfit for liquid forms. It is commonly given in powder with the addition of other materials of ſimilar intention: the Edinburgh tragacanth powder conſiſts of three parts of gum tragacanth, one of marſhmallow root, one of liquorice, and one of ſtarch*; the London, of three parts of gum tragacanth, three of gum-arabic, three of marſhmallow root, one of liquorice, one of ſtarch, and ſix of ſugar†.

*Pulv. diatragacanthi *P.E.*

†Pulv. e trag. comp. *Ph. L.*

HÆMATITES.

HÆMATITES LAPIS Pharm. Lond. & Edinb. BLOODSTONE: an elegant iron ore, found either along with the other ores of that metal, or in diſtinct mines by itſelf; in irregular maſſes, convex on one ſide and angular on the other, generally of a dark reddiſh

reddiſh colour with more or leſs of a yellowiſh caſt, very heavy, and of great hardneſs. Broken longitudinally, it exhibits a number of ſtriæ converging to the ſmaller end: the tranſverſe fracture appears of a granulated texture. Expoſed to a moderately ſtrong fire, it falls by degrees into ſcales; and in this ſtate is attracted by the magnet, and gives out its iron to acids, both which have little action upon it in the maſs or when barely reduced to powder.

THIS mineral, finely levigated*, and freed from the groſſer parts by waſhing over with water †, has long been recommended in hemorrhagies, fluxes, uterine obſtructions, *&c.* in doſes of from one ſcruple to three or four. We preſume, that it is not expected to act any otherwiſe than by virtue of its ferrugineous matter; and that pure iron itſelf, or its preparations, are preferable to a ſtony ore of variable and uncertain contents.

Hæmatit. lap. præparatus

*Pharm. Lond.

† Pharm. Ed.

HEDERA.

HEDERA ARBOREA Pharm. Edinb. & C.B. Hedera communis major J.B. IVY: an evergreen plant, climbing and ſpreading on trees and old walls; with numerous ſlender twigs, and angular leaves. When grown old, the angles of the leaves diſappear, the plant becomes erect, produces flowers, ſmall and herbaceous, in autumn, and cluſters of black berries in winter.

THE leaves of ivy have a very nauſeous taſte, and little or no ſmell. Haller ſays, they are commended in Germany againſt the atrophy of children. Among us they are ſometimes applied externally by the common people, for drawing and healing running ſores, and keeping iſſues open.

The berries are ſuppoſed by the ancients to have a purgative and emetic quality; and an extract made from them by water is called by Quercetanus *extractum purgans* (*a*). Later writers have recommended them, in ſmall doſes, as alexipharmac and ſudorific: it is ſaid, that in the London plague, the powder of them was given in vinegar or white wine with good ſucceſs. It is probable, however, that the virtue of this compound was rather owing to the vehicle than to the ivy-berries.

(*a*) Ducheſne [*Quercetanus*] *Pharmac. dogmat. reſtitut. cap.* 26.

From the ſtalks of this plant exudes, in the eaſtern countries, and ſometimes in our own (*a*), a reſinous juice, directed by the Edinburgh college as an officinal, under the name of *gummi hederæ*. This is in hard compact maſſes, externally of a reddiſh brown colour, internally of a bright browniſh yellow with reddiſh ſpecks or veins, of a vitreous gloſſineſs but not pellucid, of a light agreeable ſmell when rubbed or heated, and a reſinous ſubaſtringent taſte. Rectified ſpirit receives from it a deep browniſh red tincture, and diſſolves near three fourths: near one fourth remains undiſſolved after the ſucceſſive action of water and ſpirit. It has been recommended as corroborant, and reſolvent, in cachexies, and uterine obſtructions; but has rarely been otherwiſe made uſe of than as an ingredient in plaſters: nor does it appear to have any virtues that common reſin does not poſſeſs in at leaſt an equal degree.

HEDERA TERRESTRIS.

HEDERA TERRESTRIS Pharm. Lond. & Edinb. *Hedera terreſtris vulgaris C. B.* *Chamæciſſus; Chamæclema.* GROUND-IVY, ALEHOOF, TUNHOOF, GILL-GO-BY-GROUND: a low, ſomewhat hairy, creeping plant: with ſquare ſtalks; roundiſh or kidney-ſhaped leaves ſet in pairs at the joints; in the boſoms of which come forth cluſters of blue labiated flowers, whoſe upper lip is cloven and turned backwards. It is common in hedges and ſhady places, flowers from April to near the end of ſummer, and is generally found green all the winter.

THIS herb has a quick, bitteriſh, warm taſte; and an aromatic but not very agreeable ſmell, which is in great meaſure diſſipated by drying. It is ſuppoſed to be particularly ſerviceable in diſorders of the breaſt, for cleanſing and healing ulcerations in general, reſolving coagulated juices, and purifying the blood. It has been cuſtomary to macerate the herb, for a diet-drink*, in malt liquors; to which it readily communicates its virtue, and which it remarkably helps to fine down. It gives out its virtues alſo, together with a yellowiſh brown tincture, by infuſion in water: on inſpiſſating the filtered liquor, only the unpleaſant ſmell of the herb exhales, its more valuable parts remaining concentrated in the extract; which, on being taſted, impreſſes firſt a kind of ſweetneſs, then a degree of bitterneſs, and

* Gill ale.

(*a*) Ray, *Hiſtoria plantarum, tom.* ii *p.* 1506.

and ſoon after diſcovers a ſtrong pungency. To rectified ſpirit of wine it yields its virtue only in part: the deep green ſpirituous tincture has but little of the ſubtile pungency of the watery infuſion; and the browniſh yellow extract, obtained by inſpiſſating the tincture, is much weaker in taſte, as well as leſs in quantity, than the extract made with water.

HELLEBORUS ALBUS.

HELLEBORUS ALBUS Pharm. Lond. & Edinb. Elleborum album Matth. Helleborus albus flore ſubviridi C. B. Veratrum flore ſubviridi Tourn. WHITE HELLEBORE, SNEEZEWORT: a plant with large oval ribbed leaves, crumpled and plaited as it were, ſet alternately on a round firm ſtalk, and embracing it by a tubulous baſis: in their boſoms, towards the top, appear cluſters of hexapetalous greeniſh white flowers, followed each by three flat pods containing whitiſh triangular ſeeds: the root is ſhort and thick, with numerous fibres hanging from it, externally of a browniſh colour, internally white. It is common, on mountainous places, in Germany, Switzerland, and ſome other parts of Europe.

WHITE hellebore root has, when freſh, a diſagreeable ſmell; but as brought into the ſhops, ſcarcely any: its taſte is nauſeous, bitteriſh, acrid, very penetrating and durable. The juice of the freſh root, in taſte extremely acrid, is ſaid, when mixed with the blood, to act as a poiſon. The powder of the dry root is ſometimes mixed with external applications for deſtroying cutaneous inſects: ſnuffed up the noſe, in ſmall quantity, it proves a violent ſternutatory, and in this intention is ſometimes uſed in lethargic and other diſorders.

This root, taken internally, in doſes of ten, fifteen, or twenty grains, operates with great violence both upwards and downwards, and has ſometimes brought on convulſions and other terrible ſymptoms: Hoffmann obſerves, that it peculiarly affects the fauces, producing a ſtrangulation and danger of ſuffocation, with extreme anxiety. It has been chiefly employed, and that but ſeldom, in ſome kinds of maniacal and apoplectic caſes, as a laſt reſource; in which it is ſaid to have taken place after the ſtronger of the antimonial preparations had been given without effect. In minute doſes, it has been ſometimes uſed for acuating other purgatives and emetics; and ſometimes alſo as an alterative or deobſtruent in ſtubborn

born chronical diſtempers. In this laſt intention it is doubtleſs a medicine of great power, but its effects have not yet been ſufficiently aſcertained, to entitle it to a place in general practice.

Infuſions of white hellebore root in water, and the extracts obtained by inſpiſſating them, in colour yellowiſh, in taſte leſs acrid than the root itſelf, appear to operate with leſs violence: Hermann, who makes the doſe of the hellebore in powder from ten grains to fifteen, directs an infuſion of a dram; and of the extract he gives about as much as of the root in ſubſtance. In the ſhops, the active parts of the root, extracted by water, are thence transferred into honey: a pound of the root is macerated three days in four pints of water, then boiled a little, the decoction, preſſed out and ſtrained, mixed with three pounds of clarified honey, and the mixture boiled down till the water has exhaled and the honey appears of its original consistence*. This preparation is uſed ſometimes, but rarely, in glyſters: a ſimilar combination of the active matter of the hellebore with vinegar and honey, reduced to the conſiſtence of a ſyrup, is recommended by Geſner, in an expreſs treatiſe on this plant, as a ſafe internal medicine in phlegmatic diſorders, particularly thoſe of the breaſt, and ſaid to promote, without diſturbance, all the natural excretions: preparations of this kind, however, have one great inconvenience, that they do not admit ſo much preciſion, in regard to the ſtrength, as is requiſite in a medicine of ſo great activity.

*Mel hellebo-ratum *Ph. L.*

A tincture of white hellebore made in proof ſpirit is likewiſe milder, both in taſte and in operation, than the root in ſubſtance: a tincture drawn with a quart of proof ſpirit from eight ounces of the root†, is kept in the ſhops, and given ſometimes in doſes of a few drops as an alterative, and one or two drams and upwards as a cathartic and emetic. On inſpiſſating this tincture, the remaining extract is found to taſte ſtronger than that made with water, though not quite ſo pungent as the root itſelf.

† Tinctura veratri *P. L.*

HELLEBORUS NIGER.

HELLEBORUS NIGER Pharm. Lond. *Helleborus niger & veratrum nigrum & melampodium Ph. Ed.* *Helleborus niger flore roſeo C. B.* BLACK HELLEBORE or CHRISTMAS-FLOWER: a low plant, without any other ſtalk than the pedicles of the leaves and

and flowers, which are pretty thick, and generally ſtreaked with red or purple: the leaf is divided, quite to the pedicle, into ſix, ſeven, or more, ſmooth, firm ſegments, indented from about the middle to the extremity: the flower is large, naked, pentapetalous, of a pale roſe colour, with numerous ſtamina in the middle, which are followed by five or ſix pods full of ſhining blackiſh ſeeds, the petala continuing, and changing greeniſh: the root conſiſts of numerous fibres, hanging generally from a knotty head, externally of a black colour, internally white. It is perennial, grows wild in the mountainous parts of Germany, and flowers in our gardens in January.

Black hellebore root, in doſes of from ten grains to half a dram, proves a very ſtrong, though not very violent cathartic. The hellebore of the ancients, which was never ventured on without extreme caution and as a laſt reſource, appears to have been a different ſpecies from ours, much larger and of more violent operation, called by Tournefort *helleborus niger orientalis, ampliſſimo folio, caule prœalto, flore purpuraſcente*, which is ſtill ſaid to be found in plenty about mount Olympus, and in the iſland of Anticyra, celebrated of old for the production of this reputed antimaniacal drug. In the preſent practice, this root or its preparations are uſed ſometimes as a purgative in hydropic and other caſes where the ſtronger cathartics are required; but oftener in ſmall doſes as an attenuant and deobſtruent. It is found particularly ſerviceable againſt obſtinate ſuppreſſions of the menſtrual purgations, in plethoric habits and ſanguine conſtitutions, where chalybeates are ineffectual or injurious.

The taſte of this root is bitter and pungent: chewed for a few minutes, it ſeems to benumb the tongue. The fibres are ſtronger in taſte, and medicinally more active, than the tuberous head; and the cortical part of this, than the internal. It is ſaid to prove purgative when applied only externally, in fomentations, to the belly or feet. Water extracts by coction, and proof ſpirit by digeſtion, nearly all the virtue of the hellebore: rectified ſpirit takes up chiefly the irritating reſinous part. After due coction in water, it gives out little or nothing to ſpirit; but after repeated digeſtions in pure ſpirit, it ſtill yields to water a conſiderable proportion of a diuretic mucilaginous ſubſtance: the quantity of watery extract amounts to about one third of the root, the ſpirituous only to about one fifth.

The

The extract made with water * is the best and safest preparation of this root when designed for a cathartic; as it contains both the purgative and diuretic parts of the hellebore, and as the irritating power of its active matter is considerably abated by the boiling: it may be given from eight or ten grains to a scruple or more, but is used oftener in conjunction with other materials of similar intention than by itself. A tincture made in proof spirit appears the most eligible preparation for the purposes of an alterative or deobstruent: four ounces of the root may be digested in a quart of the spirit, with the addition of thirty or forty grains of cochineal to render the colour more sightly; and the filtered tincture † given to the quantity of a tea spoonful, twice a day, in warm water or any other convenient vehicle.

* Extractum helleb nigri *Ph. L. & Ed.*

† Tinctura melampod. *Pharm. Lond.* helleb. nig. *Pharm. Edinb.*

HEPATICA.

HEPATICA terrestris sive lichen Ph. Edinb. Lichen petræus latifolius sive hepatica fontana C. B. Hepatica terrestris vulgaris seu lichen officinarum Raii hist. i. 124. *Jecoraria.* LIVERWORT: a species of moss; consisting of numerous obtusely laciniated leaves, lying over one another, marked on the surface with white tubercles reticularly disposed through the green substance of the leaf, shooting out underneath fine capillary roots: from the extremities of the leaves issue clear whitish pedicles, bearing globular bodies, which when ripe contain black minute seeds like dust. It is perennial, grows on moist stony places, and runs up to seed in March or April.

THIS moss is recommended as an aperient, resolvent, and purifier of the blood. From the penetrating though mild pungency and bitterishness of its taste, sinking as it were into the tongue, it promises to be a plant of no inconsiderable virtue, though in this country at present disregarded. It gives out its active matter both to watery and spirituous menstrua.

HEPATICA NOBILIS.

HEPATICA NOBILIS Pharm. Edinb. Hepatica trifolia sive herba trinitatis Pharm. Paris. Trifolium hepaticum flore simplici C. B. HEPATICA, NOBLE LIVERWORT, GOLDEN TREFOIL, HERB-TRINITY: a low plant, without any other stalk than the

pedicles of the leaves and flowers: the leaf is cut, not very deep, into three lobes, entire about the edges: the flower is commonly blue, ſometimes reddiſh or white, hexapetalous, ſet in a three-leaved cup, with numerous ſtamina in the middle, which are followed by a cluſter of whitiſh ſeeds. It is perennial, grows wild on gravelly ſhady grounds in Germany and other parts of Europe, and flowers in our gardens in March or ſooner.

THIS herb is a mild reſtringent and corroborant; in which intentions, infuſions of it have been drank as tea, or the powder of the dry leaves given to the quantity of half a ſpoonful at a time. Its aſtringent matter is diſſolved equally by water and ſpirit; and on inſpiſſating the filtered tinctures, remains entire in the extracts: it is found however, even when thus concentrated, to be ſtill but weak. The watery extract is larger in quantity, and proportionably weaker in taſte, than the ſpirituous.

HERMODACTYLUS.

HERMODACTYLUS Pharm. Pariſ. HERMODACTYL: the root of an unknown plant, brought from Turkey; of the ſhape of a heart flatted; of a white colour; compact and ſolid, yet eaſy to cut or powder.

THIS root has a viſcous, ſweetiſh, farinaceous taſte, and no remarkable ſmell. It was ranked by the ancients among the cathartics, but ſuch as we now meet with in the ſhops does not appear to have any purgative virtue. Alpinus relates, that hermodactyls, the ſame with what are ſold in Europe, are eaten by the Egyptian women to the quantity of ſeveral roots at a time; that they do not move the belly, or produce any ill effect: that they are ſuppoſed to be very nutritious, and contribute to procure the fatneſs and plumpneſs there admired (*a*). Thoſe, who report them to be purgative, have probably aſcribed to the hermodactyls a part of the effects of the ſubſtances which were joined to them; for, being acknowledged ſlow in operation, they have been commonly acuated with aloes and other cathartics. They have long been an entire ſtranger to practice, and the colleges both of London and Edinburgh have now deſervedly expunged them from their catalogues of officinals.

(*a*) *De medicina Ægyptiorum, lib.* iii. *cap.* 16. & *lib.* iv. *cap.* 1.

HIBERNICUS LAPIS.

HIBERNICUS LAPIS & tegula hibernica & ardesia hibernica Pharm. Edinb. Hardesia Pharm. Paris. IRISH SLATE: a kind of slate or very soft stone found in different parts of Ireland; in the mass, of a blueish black colour and staining the hands; when powdered, pale at first, and in keeping growing black; in the fire, yielding sulphureous fumes, and acquiring a pale red colour with an additional hardness.

THIS mineral, according to Dr. Rutty's experiments, is a mixture of ferrugineous vitriol; which it discovered by its taste, and by the black colour which infusions of it struck with galls (*a*). The specimens I examined (procured from our shops) had no vitriolic taste, and infusions of them in water suffered no visible change from galls: but that they contained materials from which vitriol is producible, appeared from the sulphureous fumes they emitted in the fire, and from their giving out, when burnt, a calx of iron to aqua regis discoverable by the tincture striking a blue colour with the lixivium described under the article *ferrum:* their burning hard shews their earthy matter to be chiefly of the argillaceous kind. It may therefore be presumed, that this fossil consists of argillaceous earth impregnated, like the pyritæ, with sulphur and iron; and that, like the pyritæ also, it is capable of becoming vitriolic by long exposure to air and moisture. It has been sometimes taken by the common people, powdered and mixed with spruce beer, against inward bruises; but its medicinal use in any intention is not much to be commended, on account of the variability of its qualities.

HIPPOSELINUM.

HIPPOSELINUM sive smyrnium Ph. Edinb. Hipposelinum theophrasti vel smyrnium dioscoridis C. B. Macerone & olus atrum & herba alexandrina quibusdam. ALEXANDERS: an umbelliferous plant, with leaves like those of smallage but larger; producing thick, roundish, striated, black seeds. It is biennial, and grows wild about the sea coasts.

THIS

(*a*) *Synopsis of mineral waters, p. 217.*

THIS plant is nearly ſimilar in quality to ſmallage, but ſomewhat ſtronger both in ſmell and taſte: it was formerly blanched in our gardens for culinary uſe, but has now given place to celeri, which is more grateful. The ſeeds are bitteriſh and aromatic, and have been now and then employed, like the other warm ſeeds, as carminatives, ſtomachics, and aperients: they give out their virtue imperfectly to water, completely to rectified ſpirit: in diſtillation with water, they yield a ſmall quantity of eſſential oil, ſmelling agreeably of the ſeeds, and in taſte moderately pungent. The roots are bitterer than the ſeeds, and ſtand recommended as reſolvents, diuretics, emmenagogues: they yield, on inciſion, a whitiſh juice, which is ſaid, when inſpiſſated, to approach in taſte to myrrh; whence the plant has been called, from one of the names of that gummy-reſin, *ſmyrnium*.

HORMINUM.

HORMINUM SATIVUM ſive ſclarea Pharm. Edinb. Horminum ſclarea dictum C. B. Gallitrichum ſativum J. B. GARDEN CLARY: a whitiſh green, ſlightly hairy plant, with ſquare ſtalks, and large wrinkled oblong ſomewhat heartſhaped leaves: both the leaves, and the diviſions and ſubdiviſions of the branches, ſtand in pairs: on the tops grow long ſpikes of blueiſh labiated flowers, at the origin of which are little concave purpliſh leaves without pedicles: the upper lip of the flower is long and arched, the lower ſmaller and cut into three ſegments, the middlemoſt of which is hollowed like a ſpoon. It is biennial, a native of the warmer climates, and cultivated with us in gardens.

THE leaves and ſeeds of clary are recommended as corroborants and antiſpaſmodics; particularly in the fluor albus and other like weakneſſes, and in hyſterical complaints. They have a bitteriſh warm taſte; and a ſtrong ſmell, of the aromatic kind, but not agreeable. The leaves diſcover to the touch a large quantity of unctuous reſinous matter, in which the virtue of the herb appears to reſide, which is readily diſſolved by rectified ſpirit, and which, on inſpiſſating the fine green tincture, remains nearly entire in the dark browniſh extract: this extract ſmells more agreeably than the herb in ſubſtance, and is in taſte moderately warm, bitteriſh, and pungent. Water takes up likewiſe by infuſion great part of the active matter of the

clary, and carries off its whole flavour in evaporation, leaving a weak, diſagreeably bitteriſh, roughiſh extract. In diſtillation with water, there ariſes, both from the leaves and ſeeds, a ſmall quantity of eſſential oil, ſmelling ſtrongly of the clary: from ſixty-four ounces, or five hundred and twelve drams, of the ſeeds, was obtained only about one dram of oil. The leaves or ſeeds, fermented with malt liquors, are ſaid to remarkably increaſe their inebriative quality.

HYOSCYAMUS.

HYOSCYAMUS Pharm. Pariſ. HENBANE: a plant with ſoft, hairy, oblong, deeply notched leaves; and bell-ſhaped flowers cut into four ſegments, followed by irregular cup-like capſules, whoſe cover falling off diſcloſes numerous ſmall ſeeds in two cells.

1. HYOSCYAMUS *Ph. Edinb.* *Hyoſcyamus niger vel vulgaris C. B. Hyoſcyamus niger, ſive apollinaris herba, altercum arabum Lob.* *Faba ſuilla.* Black henbane: with large leaves joined cloſe to the ſtalk; duſky coloured flowers; and greyiſh ſeeds. It is biennial, and grows wild in waſte rich grounds.

2. HYOSCYAMUS ALBUS: *Hyoſcyamus albus major vel tertius dioſcoridis & quartus plinii C. B.* White henbane: with ſmaller and woollier leaves ſet on pedicles; white flowers; and whitiſh ſeeds. It is annual, and a native of the ſouthern parts of Europe.

THESE plants have a fetid ſmell, of the narcotic kind: on the organs of taſte they make no conſiderable impreſſion, the leaves being little other than herbaceous, the ſeeds ſomewhat mucilaginous, and the roots ſweetiſh. The leaves, applied externally, in the form of cataplaſm, fomentation, or unguent, are ſaid to be refrigerant, diſcutient, and to abate not only inflammatory but rheumatic pains. Internally, all the parts are highly narcotic, and occaſion, when taken in no great quantity, violent diſorders of the ſenſes, ſometimes of long duration, and ſometimes fatal. There are ſeveral inſtances alſo of the ſenſes being ſtrongly affected by the effluvia of the plant; and by the vapour that ariſes upon ſcorching it over the fire, which has by ſome been imprudently directed to be received into the mouth againſt toothachs (*a*). The effects of ſmall doſes, inſufficient to do harm, are

(*a*) *Vide* Lindeſtolpe, *De venenis, cap.* x. *theſ.* 20. *edit. Stentzel. p.* 559. Konig, *Regnum vegetabile, ſect.* iv. *p.* 869. Hoyer, *Acta phyſico-medica naturæ curioſorum, vol.* V. *obſ.* 69. *p.* 260. Hoffmann, *Philoſophia corporis humani morboſi, p.* ii. *cap.* vii. §. 7. *Oper. omn.* i. 223. Haller, & auctores ab eo citatos, *Stirp. helvet. p.* 513.

are not well known. The ſeeds have been given from two or three grains to a ſcruple, and ſaid to have proved beneficial in ſpittings of blood and thin ſharp defluxions on the lungs, and likewiſe in ſome convulſive diſorders. The preſent practice, however, has deſervedly rejected a medicine of ſuch ſuſpicious qualities, and which appears to be at beſt but a precarious ſuccedaneum to the products of the poppy. It is ſaid, that the ſeeds are the mildeſt part, and the root the ſtrongeſt; that the black ſort is in all its parts ſtronger than the white; and that the ſeeds are the more deleterious, the more they approach to blackneſs.

HYPERICUM.

HYPERICUM Ph. Lond. & Edinb. *Hypericum vulgare C. B.* *Androſæmum ſive perforata Geſn.* ST. JOHN'S WORT: a plant with ſlender round ſtalks, which have two fine ridges, or ſharp edgings, oppoſite, alternately, from joint to joint; ſmall oblong obtuſe leaves, ſet in pairs without pedicles; and numerous gold-coloured pentapetalous flowers on the tops of the branches, followed by little rough blackiſh huſks, each of which is divided into three cells full of minute ſeeds. It is perennial, grows wild in woods and uncultivated places, and flowers in June.

THIS plant has been recommended as a medicine of peculiar efficacy in hyſterical, hypochondriacal, and melancholic diſorders, and alienations of mind; from its ſuppoſed virtue in which caſes, it received the name of *fuga dæmonum*. It promiſes to be of ſome uſe as a mild detergent and corroborant, diſcovering to the ſenſes a reſinous, bitteriſh, balſamic impregnation. The leaves, viewed againſt the light, exhibit numerous tranſparent points, which are found to be little veſicles full of eſſential oil: in diſtillation with water, the oil ſeparates and riſes to the ſurface, approaching in ſome degree to that of turpentine. About the edges of the flower are obſerved black points, and on the ſeedveſſels ſmall tubercles, which appear to be ſimilar oily veſicles: the tops, when the ſeeds are formed, have the ſtrongeſt terebinthinate ſmell, and yield in diſtillation the greateſt quantity of oil. The flowery tops give a deep yellowiſh red tincture to rectified ſpirit, and a paler red to expreſſed oils: a tincture of the flowers in oil olive, made by macerating four ounces of the full blown

blown flowers, freſh gathered and freed from the cups, in a quart of oil, till the oil is ſufficiently coloured*, is kept for external purpoſes in the ſhops.

* Ol. hyperic. *Pharm. Lond.*

HYPOCISTIS.

HYPOCISTIDIS SUCCUS Pharm. Lond. & Edinb. The juice of HYPOCISTIS: an inſpiſſated juice, of a firm conſiſtence and a bright black colour; prepared from a certain fleſhy vegetable production *(hypociſtis ſub ciſto C. B.)* which, in the warmer climates, grows up from the root of different kinds of the ciſtus or rock-roſe, and bears little flowers on the top but no leaves.

THIS juice is a mild aſtringent, of no particular ſmell or flavour. It is looked upon as ſimilar to the Egyptian acacia; from which, however, it differs remarkably in its pharmaceutical properties, the hypociſtis being almoſt totally diſſoluble in rectified ſpirit of wine, whereas acacia gives out little or nothing to that menſtruum. It is at preſent ſcarcely otherwiſe made uſe of than as an ingredient in ſome of the old compoſitions.

HYSSOPUS.

HYSSOPUS Pharm. Lond. & Edinb. *Hyſſopus officinarum cærulea ſive ſpicata C. B.* HYSSOP: a low ſhrubby plant; with brittle branched ſtalks, ſquare when young and round when they grow woody; oblong narrow green leaves ſet in pairs; and looſe ſpikes of labiated blue flowers, whoſe upper lip is cloven and turned upwards, ſtanding in rows, towards the tops of the ſtalks, all on one ſide. It is perennial, cultivated in gardens, and flowers in July and Auguſt.

THE leaves of hyſſop have an aromatic ſmell, and a bitteriſh moderately warm taſte. They give out their active matter both to water and rectified ſpirit, to the laſt moſt perfectly: the watery infuſions are of a browniſh or greeniſh yellow, the ſpirituous tinctures of a dark blackiſh green colour. On inſpiſſating the ſpirituous tincture, very little of the flavour of the herb exhales or diſtils with the menſtruum: the remaining extract is bitteriſh and very warm, and diſcovers a penetrating pungency, ſomewhat like that of camphor. Water, diſtilled from the freſh herb * is found pretty ſtrongly impregnated

* Aq. hyſſopi *Pharm. Edinb.*

pregnated with its flavour: an eſſential oil ſeparates and riſes to the ſurface, to the quantity of about an ounce from ſix pounds of the leaves, in ſmell exactly reſembling the hyſſop, in taſte very pungent, in colour, when newly diſtilled, yellowiſh with a ſlight caſt of green, which by age changes to a browniſh: the decoction, remaining after the diſtillation, is diſagreeably roughiſh, bitteriſh, and ſubſaline.

This plant is accounted particularly ſerviceable, as an attenuant, corroborant, and expectorant, in humoural aſthmas, coughs, and other diſorders of the breaſt and ſtomach unaccompanied with inflammatory ſymptoms: in theſe caſes, infuſions of the leaves, which are not unpalatable, may be ſweetened with honey or ſugar, and drank as tea. The diſtilled water, by ſome made choice of as a baſis for pectoral mixtures and juleps, does not appear ſuperiour or equal to the infuſion.

JACOBÆA.

JACOBÆA Pharm. Pariſ. *Jacobæa vulgaris laciniata C. B. Herba ſancti jacobi & ſenecio major quibuſdam.* RAGWORT, SAINT-JAMES-WORT, SEGGRUM: a plant with oblong dark green leaves, deeply jagged almoſt to the rib, and the ſections jagged again and ſomewhat crumpled: on the tops of the ſtalks grow umbel-like cluſters of yellow flowers, of the radiated diſcous kind, followed by ſmall oblong ſeeds winged with down. It is perennial, common in uncultivated fields and by road ſides, and flowers in July.

THE leaves of ragwort have a roughiſh bitteriſh ſubacrid taſte, extremely nauſeous, far different from that of the herbaceous groundſel to which they have by ſome been accounted ſimilar. Simon Pauſi relates, that they were found of great ſervice in an epidemic camp dyſentery, many ſoldiers having been cured of that diſeaſe by drinking a decoction of them; and expreſſes ſome concern, that a medicine of ſo much efficacy ſhould be at the ſame time ſo very diſguſtful to the palate. This however is an inconvenience that may be eaſily palliated: the active matter of ragwort, (whatever its virtue may be) is diſſolved both by water and by rectified ſpirit, and on inſpiſſating the filtered tinctures, remains concentrated in the extracts; which may be taken, without offence to the palate, in the form of a bolus or pill. The ſpirituous extract is in leſs quantity than the watery, and proportionably ſtronger in taſte; though rather leſs nauſeous than the herb in ſubſtance.

JALAPIUM.