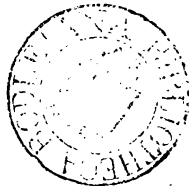


ANNALS OF PHILOSOPHY;
OR, MAGAZINE OF
CHEMISTRY, MINERALOGY, MECHANICS,
NATURAL HISTORY,
AGRICULTURE, AND THE ARTS.

BY THOMAS THOMSON, M.D. F.R.S. L. & E. F.L.S. &c.
MEMBER OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, OF THE WERNERIAN SOCIETY, AND OF THE
IMPERIAL MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL ACADEMY OF PETERSBURGH.

VOL. VI.

JULY TO DECEMBER, 1815.



London :

Printed by C. Baldwin, New Bridge-street ;

FOR BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY,
47, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

SOLD ALSO BY
W. BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH; AND J. CUMMING, DUBLIN.

1815.

are usually called weeds, are children of nature, wild plants whose territory is daily invaded by cultivated plants, but which endeavour by all the means in their power to maintain their ground. They soon recover their soil if man neglect them. The wind, water, and animals, transport their seeds; the earth conceals them for a long time, and they vegetate when the favourable moment comes. The imprudent farmer often sows them himself in the manure which he lays on the fields. M. Yvard, who mentions more than 300 species, describes all the care and all the stratagems which must be employed in the kind of war which the farmer must carry on against them, and he treats his subject from actual experience.

This skilful farmer has done a still greater favour to agriculture by publishing last spring, through the medium of the journals, the methods which his experience has suggested as the most proper to repair the losses occasioned by the events of war among the corn and the grass. He has had the happiness to see his counsels fructify. It could not be perceived by the price of corn that our finest provinces have been the fields of battle. It is by such applications of agriculture and art, perfected by the spirit of the sciences, that France has for twenty years contended with the disasters always renewed of a cruel war, and that she has been able to bear without sinking the painful operation on which depended the end of her ills,

(To be continued.)

ARTICLE XI.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE; AND NOTICES OF SUBJECTS
CONNECTED WITH SCIENCE.

I. Lectures.

A Course of Lectures on the Elements of Electrical Science, comprehending Galvanism and Electro-Chemistry, will be commenced by Mr. Singer, on Monday, Nov. 6, at No. 3, Princes-street, Cavendish-square.

II. Largest Diamond.

The largest diamond hitherto found is in the possession of the Rajah of Mattan, in the Island of Borneo, in which island it was found about 80 years ago. It is shaped like an egg, with an indented hollow near the smaller end. It is said to be of the finest water. It weighs 367 carats. Now as 156 carats are equal to 1 oz. Troy, it is obvious that this diamond weighs 2 oz. 169·87 gr. Troy. Many years ago the Governor of Batavia tried to purchase this diamond. He sent a Mr. Stuvart to the Rajah, who offered 150,000 dollars, two large war brigs with their guns and ammunition, together with a certain number of great guns, and a quantity of powder

and shot. The Rajah, however, refused to deprive his family of so valuable an hereditary possession, to which the Malays attach the miraculous power of curing all kinds of diseases, by means of the water in which it is dipped, and with which they imagine that the fortune of the family is connected.—See Dr. Leyden's account of Borneo, in the seventh volume of the Transactions of the Batavian Society.

III. Voyage of Discovery to Africa.

The gentlemen appointed by Government to prosecute the discoveries of the late unfortunate Mungo Park have at last sailed from England for the coast of Africa. They are Major John Peddie, Capt. T. Campbell, and Mr. Cowdery, staff surgeon. They are said to be very well qualified for the task which they have undertaken. They are to be attended by a company of Negroes. The object of the expedition is to trace the Niger from the place at which Mungo Park left it to the sea, and to determine whether or not it be the same with the Zayr.

IV. Death of Gehlen.

Adolph Ferdinand Gehlen, whose name has occurred repeatedly in the *Annals*, died at Munich last summer; or perhaps it would be more proper to say that he destroyed himself, since he persisted in a set of experiments in which he was daily exposed to the fumes of arsenic, though warned by his friends of the fatal consequences that would ensue. He became first generally known to the chemical world in 1803 by the publication of a new monthly chemical work, which he entitled, *Neues Allgemeines Journal der Chemie* (New Universal Journal of Chemistry). Of this journal he published six volumes, which contain a great deal of valuable and original matter. In 1806 he changed the title to *Journal für die Chemie und Physik* (Journal of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy). About this time he was chosen a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences of Munich, to which capital he repaired. Yet he still continued to publish his journal at Berlin. But it was infinitely inferior to what it had been, consisting chiefly of translations from foreign journals, and of long papers by Ritter, often highly absurd and ridiculous. He continued it, however, till 1810, when he stopped: no doubt because the sale had diminished so much as not to be equivalent to the expenses of the publication. His principal discovery was the mode of precipitating red oxide of iron by succinate of soda or of ammonia. This discovery has been of considerable use in the chemical analysis of minerals.

V. Confirmation of Mr. Rose's Discovery of the Absence of Urea from the Urine in Hepatitis: being an Extract of a Letter from Dr. Henry, of Manchester.

Soon after the publication of Mr. Rose's paper, in your number for June, a medical friend (Dr. Holme) gave me a specimen of the