

the method of extracting the virtue, and leaving the useless portion behind.

Take an instance or two,—a man grievously afflicted with ague, is forced by necessity to drink the bitter water in which some trees are lying; he recovers: the cure is traced to the properties of the water, and thence to the bark of the trees. From this bark science extracts the quinine, known as a specific for ague.

Discovery of  
quinine.

A soap boiler finds in his vats a substance which corrodes his vessels, and which is different from any substance before known. The analysis of this by a scientific chemist produces one of the most singular and important chemical elements, iodine. Its presence is traced to the ashes of sea plants used in the manufacture; to the sea water itself, and other marine products, among others,

Discovery of  
iodine.

to sponge. Dr. Coindet of Geneva remembered that burnt sponge had been used as a remedy for goitre, an unsightly glandular enlargement to which the mountaineers of Switzerland are especially subject. He thought of trying its effect on those thus afflicted, and the result is the discovery of the most efficacious remedy for all such affections.

Herschel, Nat.  
Phil., page 51.

Such are some of the ways in which discove-