

Mr. Thomas Salmon, of Canterbury has given a description of a simple method for clearing apartments from noxious air. He carries an air-tight metallic tube from the upper part of the place in which the noxious air is generated, as common-shores, cess-pools, privies, &c. with an ascent towards the kitchen or other chimney, whose fire is most frequently kept, and joined to the lower part of the back of the grate; a pipe is also fixed at the upper part of the grate, which is made to conduct the nearest way out of the house. By this method, Mr. Salmon says, holds of ships may be ventilated without labour or expense, by passing the metal pipe through the cabin or other fire, and that destruction of grain prevented that was experienced during the late scarcity.

It is said that a method has been discovered of ascertaining the longitude at sea, by means of a magnetic ball floating in a basin of quicksilver. Besides its polarity, the magnet is on this theory supposed to have a propensity to retain its relative position on the earth; that is to say, it turns upon an axis, like the earth, one part always pointing to the polar star, so that in sailing round the world, the little ball would make a complete revolution on its axis.

Citizen Coquebert has lately communicated to the Philomathic Society of Paris a very simple process for taking a copy of a recent manuscript. The process is the more interesting, as it requires neither machine nor preparation, and may be employed in any situation. It consists in putting a little sugar into common writing ink and with this the writing is executed upon common paper, sized as usual: when a copy is required, *unsized* paper is taken, and lightly moistened with a sponge. The wet paper is then applied to the writing, and a flat-iron (such as is used by laundresses) of a mo-

derate heat, been lightly passed over the unsized paper, the copy is immediately produced.

Citizen Haüy having compared the methods of writing and calculating of several celebrated blind men, has digested into a body of doctrine the best productions of experience in this art. His method of *writing* consists in using an iron pen, the point of which is not split: by writing without ink, and pressing on a strong paper, the blind man produces a character in relief, which he can immediately read by passing his fingers over the projecting characters on the opposite side of the paper, in the contrary direction. The relief is sufficient, provided a soft surface be placed under the paper, such as leather, blotting paper, &c.

The vaccine inoculation continues to make rapid progress in Spain and Italy. In Catalonia 7000 persons were inoculated in the course of nine months; and, by its means, the fatal ravages of small-pox have been stopped in the department of Milla, where, during three months only, 12,000 persons have submitted to the vaccine operation.

It is of importance to be known, that relief may be expected to navigators ship-wrecked on a desert coast, by means of inclosing an account of their case in a bottle, well-corked, and committed to the waves. A letter, put in a bottle, and thrown overboard at the entrance of the Bay of Biscay, was, in nine months taken up on the coast of Normandy. Another, abandoned to the waves at 42° latitude east of the meridian of Teneriffe, travelled 120 leagues in three weeks, and was taken up on the strand at Cape Prior. It was addressed to M. Bernardin de St. Pierre, and was immediately forwarded to him by the French Vice-consul at Ferrol. A third traversed upward of 900 leagues in a direct line, and landed at the