

sive and curious subject of enquiry. The southern and northern regions of America are, throughout their vast extent, replete with an infinite variety of plants of wonderful properties, among which are many powerful specifics for certain maladies, and by means of which extraordinary cures are performed.

The natives compound, as an application to wounds, a liquid partly balsamic, which sometimes is productive of notable effects. Of this composition there are three varieties; one is made of vulnerary plants, among which different classes are established according to the efficacy of their virtues. Another is made up from the roots of what they term vulnerary trees. A third is compounded from the bodies of divers animals, especially the hearts, which they dry and form into a powder or paste.

One of these appears not much impregnated with foreign matter, being only of a colour somewhat more yellow than common water. The effect of this prescription is intended to expel from the frame, not only the vicious humours which collect in a wound, and to remove splinters from bones, but also to facilitate the extraction of the heads of arrows. The commencement of the remedy is by drinking of this liquid, which also serves for the sustenance of the patient while he is in danger. The operator, after having examined the part affected, drinks also of the liquid, that his saliva may be impregnated therewith before he sucks or syringes the wound with his mouth. This office being performed, he covers and binds up the wound in such a manner that it may not receive any injury, conceiving that all extraneous substances which touch it, tend only to irritate and to retard a cure. The dressing is from time to time regularly removed, and the same process is repeated. This mode of treatment is generally so efficacious, that no fungous flesh is perceived; and if the patient observe a regular regimen, and do not subject himself to any indiscretion, he is soon restored to health. In the cure of ruptures, dislocations, and fractures, they are no less successful. Broken bones have been joined so completely, that the patient has in the course of a week been restored to the free use of the afflicted member. Their topical remedies are, in general, excellent, but the same observation cannot be extended to their other prescriptions.

The jugglers or quacks carry their pretended medical acquirements to a great height, and scrutinize the cause of the disease in the secret operations of the heart. They endeavour to develop the desires whose fulfilment is essential to the re-establishment of mental tranquillity.

If the patient be a person of consideration among his coun-