

were Chinese statues, who held in their left hands little basons of gilt copper, and in their right, little hammers of the same metal. This theatre, such as I have been describing, was supposed to be built by the water side. The fore part represented a mere or sea, or rather a bason, from which sprung up a *jet d'eau*, which fell back again in the form of a cascade: A plate of looking-glass represented the bason; and threads of glass, blown at a lamp by a man very dexterous at that business, were so fine and delicate, and imitated so well a *jet d'eau*, that at a small distance they might have been mistaken for it. Around the bason they had marked a dial plate with European and Chinese characters. A goose and two ducks were made sporting in the middle of the water. The two ducks muddled with their beaks, and the goose marked with hers the present hour. The whole moved by springs, which, at the same time, formed the movements of the clock, that was in the machine. A loadstone, which was likewise concealed, and which moved round the dial plate, drew after it the goose, the greatest part of which was of iron. When the hour was upon the point of striking, the statue which held the inscription in his hand, came forth from an apartment in the centre of the theatre, and with a profound reverence shewed the legend; afterwards the

six other statues played a musical air, by striking, every one upon his bason, the note which had been assigned him, as often and in such time as the music required. This ended, the figure that bore the inscription returned back with great gravity, to wait for the ensuing hour. This machine pleased the Emperor so much, that he was desirous to testify his gratitude to the Europeans for it. In return he made them a present, which was at least an equivalent for the expence they had been at in its construction. The honour which he thereby did us is much more valuable than the greatest riches. He caused it to be placed in one of those apartments of the palace which he frequents the ofteneft, and it is there preserved with great care to this day.

The Emperor made presents to all the mandarines of the capital, in recompence for the care and pains they had taken about these solemnities. All the women of the empire that were eighty years old and upwards, partook likewise of his liberality. The sum of money was more or less considerable in proportion to their age. It is computed that the expence of this festival, reckoning as well what was laid out by the Emperor as by the different corporations and private persons, amounted to more than three hundred million of livres.

OF THE COLLECTION AND CURATION OF SIMPLES.

[By Dr. Lerois.]

VEGETABLES should be gathered chiefly from those soils, in which they naturally delight, or in which they are found most commonly to rise spontaneously; for, though many of them may be raised, and made to grow with vigour, in very different ones, their virtue generally suffers by the change. A variation of seasons occasions also differences considerable enough to require, oftentimes, an allowance to be made in the quantity; plants in general growing weaker, though more luxuriant, in rainy than in dry ones.—Herbs and flowers are to be gathered in a clear dry day, after the morning dew is gone off from them. Leaves for the most part, are in their greatest perfection, when come to their full growth, just before the flowers appear: flowers, when moderately expanded: seeds when they begin to grow dry, before they fall spontaneously: woods and barks, as is supposed, in the

winter: annual roots, before the stalks begin to rise: biennial roots, in the autumn of the first year, or in the following spring: perennial roots, before they begin to shoot. Though the perennial, as well as biennial roots, have been commonly directed to be dug up in autumn, when the leaves wither; they are both, generally found to be most vigorous when the return of spring has renewed their vegetative power. To most of these rules there are some exceptions, which are specified under the particular subjects.

Of the vegetables which lose their virtue in being dried, the greater number, perhaps all, may be preserved for a considerable length of time, by impeding the exhalation of their native moisture; for so long as they retain this, they seem to retain also their medical activity. Thus roots have their virtue preserved by being buried in sand, which should be dry, that they