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ON BOTANY.

CHAP. I.

ON THE STRUCTURE OF PLANTS.

(Continued from page 203.)

The Seeds pursuing the order of succession with which we began, the next part of plants which falls under our consideration is the seed. Upon the form or structure of these no attempt has ever been made to found a system of classification, and hence we find many of the elementary treatises on botany are very brief, others of them totally silent on this part of the science. But notwithstanding a description of the seeds does not form a conspicuous part in many Books on Botany; we are inclined to view it as of too much consequence to be overlooked. The seeds are the parts by which vegetable bodies are propagated. A knowledge of them forms the first step of what may be called the practice of the science; and hence it is essential to the Seeds-man and Gardner. The seeds of Plants often contain their virtues in a more concentrated form than any other part and are subjected to the operations of the chemist in order to extract those virtues. For these and many other reasons we are inclined to consider them as having a claim to a careful examination.

Seeds are defined to be "those deciduous parts of vegetable bodies which contain the rudiments of a new plant of the same kind as the one from whence they are produced." They are generally of a firm texture and present a great variety of forms. They are attached to the vessel which contains them and the rest of the plant by a fine cord through which they draw their nourishment during the period