

era, alludes to distillation as a means of extracting the aroma of plants and flowers."

"Geber, who lived in the 7th century, describes very accurately the process of distillation by the alembics per descensorium et filtrum, in his work entitled, *Liber Investigationis Magisterii*."

"The first spirit known in Europe was made from grapes, and sold, both in Italy and Spain, as a medicine, under the name of alcohol. The Genoese made it from grain, and sold it at a very high price, under the name of aqua vitæ, or water of life."

This, if we take the authority of Villanova, happened during the thirteenth century.

But we have every reason to believe that alcohol was known long prior to this period. Its name, which is from the Arabic, would indicate its origin to have taken place among that people. Some of our lexicographers, however, are of opinion, that the word alcohol, is from the oriental word kahala, which signifies to paint with a preparation of antimony. The females of these countries still stain their eye brows with this powder. The name was applied not only to this but to other fine powders, and also to highly rectified spirit.

The introduction of such a powerful stimulant as alcohol into the manufacture of intoxicating liquors, as might have been anticipated, changed the whole aspect of intemperance, and imparted increased virulence to the evils arising from its effects on the physical condition of our race.

Many were the eulogiums poured forth on its virtues and sanative properties, and it was considered to be the universal panacea which had so long been sought for in