

“ One of these pills must be swallowed morning and evening with some *betel* leaf, or, in countries where *betel* is not at hand, with cold water : if the body be cleansed from foulness and obstructions by gentle catharticks and bleeding before the medicine is administered, the remedy will be the speedier.”

The principal ingredient of this medicine is the arsenick, which the Arabs call *shucc*, the Persians' *mergi mush* or *mouse-bane*, and the Indians' *sanc' hya* ; a mineral substance ponderous and *crystalline* : the *orpiment*, or *yellow arsenick*, is the weaker sort. It is a deadly poison, and so subtle that, when mice are killed by it, the very smell of the dead will destroy the living of that species : after it has been kept about seven years, it loses much of its force ; its color becomes turbid ; and its weight is diminished. This mineral is hot and dry in the fourth degree ; it causes suppuration, dissolves or unites, according to the quantity given ; and is very useful in closing the lips of wounds, when the pain is too intense to be borne. An unguent made of it with oils of any sort is an effectual remedy for some cutaneous disorders, and, mixed with rose-water, it is good for cold tumors and for the dropsy ; but it must never be administered without the greatest caution ; for such is its power, that the smallest quantity of it in powder, drawn, like alcohol, between the eyelashes, would in a single day entirely corrode the coats and humours of the eye ; and fourteen *rites* of it would in the same time destroy life. The best antidote against its effects are the scrapings of leather reduced to ashes ; if the quantity of arsenick taken be accurately known, four times as much of those ashes, mixed with water and drunk by the patient, will sheath and counteract the poison.

The writer conformably to the directions of his learned friend, prepared the medicine ; and, in the same year gave it to numbers, who were reduced by the diseases above mentioned to the point of death ; God is his witness, that they grew better from day to day, were at last completely cured, and are now living (except one or two who died of other

of the seeds in diamond scales, and find the average Apothecary's weight of one seed to be a grain and *five-sixteenths*. Now in the *Hindu* medical books *ten* of the *rattica* seeds are one *mashaca*, and eight *mashacas* make a *tolaca* or *tola* ; but in the law-books of Bengal a *mashaca* consists of *sixteen ratticas* and a *tolaca* of *five mashas* ; and according to some authorities five *retis* only go to one *masha*, sixteen of which make a *tolaca*. We may observe, that the silver *reti*-weights used by the goldsmiths at Benares are twice as heavy as the seeds—and thence it is, that eight *retis* are commonly said to constitute one *masha*, that is eight silver weights, or sixteen seeds, eighty of which seeds, of 105 grains, constitute the quantity of arsenick in the *Hindu* prescription.