

"Mandragora" is a drug of "a very cold temperature," and therefore "used to cast menne into deepe sleepes when they have to be cut by surgeans, and for many other purposes in phisick." Other curious information in Natural History and Physiology is given. There is a tree in Arabia called rasin "whereof there is but one founde (at a time), and upon it the phoenix sits." (The story was that the phoenix lived a thousand years at the end of which time it built its nest, which took fire and consumed the bird, leaving ashes, however, out of which sprang a fresh bird; and so on.) A serpent, called magiriano, is "saide to grow out of a dead mannes back or chine bone." The lungs are not only the "lights" of any creature, but they are "the guts (*i.e.*, the tubes or ducts) whereby every creature drawes breath." It is curious that this word in the singular, as in catgut, Gut of Canso gut for an open water passage through a marsh, is passable; while in the plural a substitute has to be employed. There is in Florio much straightforward English. His book was expected to be consulted by the highest personages. It was dedicated, as we have seen, first to Lucie, Countesse of Bedford, for one; and afterwards to Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I. We may gather from this, as from other quarters, that the ladies of Florio's days were not squeamish. As a sample of the copiousness of English speech, take the different shades of meaning for ragione, reason: "Right, due, knowledge, wit, wisdom, discourse, discretion, judgement, advise, purpose, counsell, case, respect, consideration, avisement, regard, the case, the matter, the state, the meanes, the waye, the fashion, the forme, the proportion, the kinde, the sise, the sort, a rule, the trade, the feate, the manner and sorte, a minde, a counsell, a persuasion, a cause, an account, a reckoning, busines, quantitie, value: also, justice, doome, or place of justice and lawe."