

ous juices, which causes the plumule to grow and increase to the destined size of the plants: but till the root is shot and able to procure nourishment, the plantule is nourished from the substance of the placentæ or cotyledons, which is drawn to itself by an infinite number of little filaments called funes umbilicales, or naval-strings, and by botanists the seed root. By this means the embryo plant receives the cruder juices of the earth prepared and purified, being strained through the very substance of the placenta. When the root is able to provide for a plant, the cotyledons, or two lobes of the placenta, perish, and the plant may be said to be delivered of its young or fœtal plant: so analogous is the process of nature in the vegetable and animal economy.

The fourth and last part of botany is concerned in the following particulars: (1.) To give an exact enumeration, and the names of all the plants yet known in every part of the world, which are at this time about 600,000 in number. (2.) To specify the peculiar notes, marks, properties and characters of each plant, by which it may be known and distinguished from any other. (3.) The place of its most common growth, as on land or water, wet or dry ground, on walls, trees, &c. (4.) The time of blooming, and their continuance in bloom. (5.) To recite their qualities, and give a just and true account of the medical virtues that are known to pertain to each. (6.) To teach the method of propagating each species in gardens, &c., for the various uses ornament, food, medicine, or natural philosophy. But, as I at first observed, these particulars are of too general a nature, and alone form the subject of the largest volumes, and consequently cannot be expected here.

The various kinds of fruits are next to be considered, and I think it advisable to explain the properties of the fruits as I come to them, and their service to us medicinally. My opinion is that fruits in their season cannot be dispensed with, for the sake of health, and if the moderate use of them was more particularly attended to, there would be not so much medicine required. Fruits are pleasant in general, and of all parts in the science of medical botany, fruit is the most refined, pure, virtuous and powerful, combined with quick assimilation to the