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ODOURS.*

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Each of the three kingdoms of nature contains odorous substances. Amongst minerals are found a few solids and several liquids and gases which are endowed with more or less strong, generally rather disagreeable, but characteristic odours. These are elementary bodies, such as chlorine, bromine, iodine, etc.; acids, such as hydrochloric acid and hydrocyanic acid; carbides of hydrogen, such as petroleum; and alkaline substances, as ammonia, etc. The odours that are manifest in animals may nearly all be attributed either to gaseous compounds of hydrogen and carbon, or hydrogen and sulphur, to various solid and liquid acids arising from the decomposition of fats, or to special principles secreted by the glands, such as musk, ambergris, civet, etc. Plants present a great variety of odours; absolutely inodorous plants are very rare, and many that when fresh appear to be so, manifest when dried a perceptible perfume.

*A portion of a paper published in the Pharm. Jour. and Trans., and translated in that journal from a memoir, entitled "Les Odeurs d'après les Decouvertes Recentes de la Chimie et de la Physiologie" (Moniteur Scientific Quesneville xiv. 26 et seq.)