

as by the malignant potency with which it is impregnated.

Ray relates the following instance of the powerful effects of the poison, but the veracity of which many have doubted. “ A gentleman
“ who went over to the East Indies, while
“ he was one day sitting among some friends,
“ was accosted by an Indian juggler, who
“ offered to shew him some experiments re-
“ specting the venom of serpents; an exhibi-
“ tion usual enough in that country. Having
“ first, therefore, produced a large serpent,
“ he assured the company that it was harm-
“ less; and to convince them of what he said,
“ he tied up his arm, as is usual with those
“ who are going to be bled, and whipped the
“ serpent until it was provoked to bite him.
“ Having drawn, in this manner, about half a
“ spoonful of blood from his arm, he put the
“ congealed clot upon his thigh. He then took
“ out a much smaller serpent, which was no
“ other than the cobra di capello; and having
“ tied up its neck, he procured about half a
“ drop of its venom, which he sprinkled on the
“ clot of blood on his thigh, which instantly be-
“ gan to ferment and bubble, and soon changed
“ colour from a red into a yellow.”