

which I have deduced, be doubted, there may be an opportunity of rendering them more authentic.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE NATURE OF PLATINA.

WE have already seen, that of all the Mineral substances which I subjected to trial it was not the most dense, but the least fusible, which required the longest time to receive and lose heat. Iron and emery, which are the most difficult matters to fuse, are, at the same time, those that heat and cool the slowest. There is nothing except platina that is accessible to heat, which retains it longer than iron. This mineral, (which has not long been publicly mentioned) appears, however, to be more difficult to fuse; the fire of the best furnaces is not fierce enough to produce that effect, nor even to agglutinate the small grains, which are all angular, hard, and similar in form to the thick scale of iron, but of a yellowish colour; and although we can fuse them without any addition, and reduce them into a mass by a mirror, platina seems to require more heat than the ore and scales of iron
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