

powder; the effect of which remedy, in subduing a violent disease, compared with the small quantity of it employed for that purpose, has been not inelegantly though playfully illustrated by that passage of the *Georgics*, in which the husbandman is taught to allay the occasional contests and agitations of the bees, by scattering a handful of dust among them.

“ *Hi motus—atque hæc certamina tanta*

“ *Pulveris exigui jactu compressa quiescent.*”

And, if the vegetable kingdom had failed to afford any other medicinal substance than this, mankind would have still had ample cause for thankfulness.

But, even in the instances of those remedies from which nothing beyond a present or temporary alleviation is expected, the benefit usually accruing cannot easily be estimated at too high a rate: and one remedy there is, of this nature, for which mankind is indebted to the vegetable kingdom exclusively. How often has not opium lulled the most excruciating agonies of pain? how often has it not restored the balm of sleep to the almost exhausted body; or quieted those nervous agitations of the whole system, the terrors of which none perhaps can duly appreciate but those who have experienced them? There are however diseased or unnatural states of the body, in which no direct remedy can be applied, and all soothing means would not only be ineffectual, but fatal: in such states those