

single instance of its application to this purpose be demanded, who can hesitate to name that astonishing proof of the genius and industry of the great English physiologist, John Hunter, the founder of the Collection preserved in the Royal College of Surgeons? on the pedestal of whose bust, placed within the walls of the museum of that college, might well be inscribed, as I believe has been often suggested, those appropriate words,

“Cujus monumentum si quæras, circumspice.”

SECT. V.

Vegetables as applicable to the Arts, &c.

IN considering the application of natural substances to the various purposes of life, it is often interesting to compare the simplicity of the original contrivance with the complicated manipulations of the process by which, at the present day, a material, destined for a specific use, is brought into a fit state for that use. Let fine writing-paper be taken as an instance; and let us compare the history of a piece of such paper with that of the simple material on which many Oriental manuscripts are written—the mere leaf of a tree, probably some species of palm,—which after having been cut into the requisite size and form, seems to have undergone no other preparation than simple pressure; partly with the view of forcing out its natural moisture, and