

cedently to the researches above mentioned we should never have dreamed of looking for it. Vitruvius mentions, in speaking of the construction of garden walks, that the fragments of charcoal, which were a common substratum of such walks, had occasionally afforded a most important magazine of fuel in a protracted siege: and in such an emergency the bones of animals might continue a supply of food, after the flesh had been eaten.

SECT. VI.

Manufacture of Sal Ammoniac.

EVEN in the present abundance of animal food the refuse is not wasted; and all that is thrown aside, as unpalatable or indigestible, is subsequently collected, for the purpose of obtaining a material, very extensively employed and of considerable value in the arts, known familiarly under the name of *sal ammoniac*. Perhaps in the whole circle of the arts there is scarcely any process more interesting, if all the attendant circumstances be considered, than the fabrication of this substance: and the interest principally arises from this peculiarity in the nature of the process, that, among the numerous products which are evolved in its different stages, there is scarcely one which is not sufficiently useful to prevent the necessity of its being thrown away.