and cutting angles, so that they could not adjust themselves, nor heap one on the other as easily as those of platina. The gold powder I had before made use of was such as is found in river sand, whose grains adjust themselves much better one against the other, and I found a about a tenth difference between the specific weight of those and platina; nevertheless, those are not pure gold, more than two or three carats being often wanting, which must diminish the specific weight in the same relation. Thus we have thought we might maintain, from the result of my experiments, that platina in grains, and such as Nature produces it, is, at least, an eleventh, or twelfth, lighter than gold. There is every reason to presume that the error on the density of platina, proceeded from it's not having been weighed in its natural state, but only after it had been reduced into a mass; and as this fusion cannot be made but by the addition of other matters, and a very fierce fire, it is no longer pure platina, but a composition in which fusing matters are entered, and from which fire has taken the lightest parts.

Platina, therefore, instead of being of a density almost equal to that of pure gold, as has been asserted, is only a density between that of gold and