

CHAP. VI.

Of Seeny, or Senna.

AS all the precepts of Pharmacy were not at first put in practice, so neither were all Medicaments at first made under precepts, or indeed brought to light; for the Antients had no knowledge of that we call Seeny; the Persians, *Abalzemer*; than which, no purgative now more frequent, more usual, more usefull. It is a filiquous Plant, brought to us from the Eastern Countreyes, much like our *Collota*, but its leaves better resemble the greater Myrtle. Flowers of a dusky colour issue out of the hollow betwixt its stalk and stem, appended on tenuious pedicles; to which succeed little, long, plain incurvated leaves, gravitated with small, brown, compressed seeds, like Gyars.

Its roots, which are long and slender, are useles in Pharmacy, especially if its stalk be not long-lived; which being impatient of cold, lives not above four months in the Western Countreyes, nor in Italy after Autumn.

There are two sorts hereof; one wild, whose leaves are lesser, rounder, and more useles; the other domestical, whose leaves are larger, more acute, and usefull.

Seeny calcifies not so much as some think; for it is but hot about the end of the first degree, or beginning of the second, and dry about the end of the second. It purges clemently both cholerick and crass phlegmatick humours; it deterges, digests, and expurges all viscid humours, and adust choler from the brain, lungs, spleen, liver, ventricle, and mesentery; and cures all diseases in those parts, arising from these humours.

It is exhibited either in form of powder, as when it ingredes the Electuary of * *Diabalzemer*, or *Catholicon*, or infused and decocted, as when purgative *Syrupus de pomis*, or laxative Apozemes are made thereof. But seeing in concoction it excites gripings and flatuosity, it must be mixed either with *Anise*, or *Coriander*, or Fennel seeds, to discuss its flatuosity.