winks at this contempt, and endeavours to keep theſe intractable ſubjects under by mildneſs and moderation : it would, beſides, be difficult to employ rigorous means in order to reduce them to perfect obedience ; their wild and frightful mountains (the tops of which are al­ways covered with ſnow, even in the month of July) would afford them places of ſhelter, from which they could never be driven by force.

The cuſtoms of theſe mountaineers are totally diffe­rent from those of the Chineſe. It is, for example, an act of great politeneſs among them to preſent a white handkerchief of taffety or linen, when they accoſt any perſon whom they are deſirous of honouring. All their religion conſiſts in their adoration of the god Fo, to whom they have a ſingular attachment: their ſuperstitious veneration extends even to his miniſters, on whom they have conſidered it as their duty to confer ſupreme power and the government of the nation.

SIGAULTIAN operation, a method of delivery in cases of difficult labour, firſt practiſed by M. Sigault. It conſiſts in enlarging the dimenſions of the pelvis, in order to procure a ſafe paſſage to the child without in­juring the mother. See Midwifery, chap. vii.

SIGESBECKIA, in botany: A genus of plants belonging to the claſs of ſyngeneſia, and to the order of polygamia ſuperflua ; and in the natural ſyſtem ranging under the 4.9th order, C*omposite.* The receptacle is pa­leaceous ; the pappus is wanting ; the exterior calyx is pentaphyllous, proper, and ſpreading ; the radius is hal­ved. There are three ſpecies : 1. The *orientalis,* which is a native of India and China. 2. The *occidentalis,* which is a native of Virginia. 3. The flos*culοsa,* a na­tive of Peru.

SIGETH, a town of Lower Hungary, and capital of a county of the ſame name. It is ſeated in a moraſs, and has a triple wall, with ditches full of water ; and is defended by a citadel, being one of the ſtrongeſt pla­ces in Hungary. It now belongs to the houſe of Austria, and was retaken from the Turks in 1669, after it had been blocked up two years. In ſome maps it is called *Zigat.* E. Long. 18. 58. N. Lat. 46. 17.

SIGHING, an effort of nature, by which the lungs are put into greater motion, and more dilated, so that the blood passes more freely, and in greater quantity, to the left auricle, and thence to the ventricle. Hence we learn, says Dr Hales, how ſighing increaſes the force of the blood, and conſequently proportionably cheers and relieves nature, when oppreſſed by its too flow motion, which is the case of thoſe who are dejected and sad.

SIGHT, or Vision. See Anatomy, n⁰ 142. and *Index* ſubjoined to Optics.

*Imperfection of Sight with regard to Colours,* Under the article Colours, is given an inſtance of a ſtrange deficiency of sight in ſome people who could not diſtinguiſh between the different colours. In the Phil. Tranſe Vol. LXVIII. p. 611. we have an account of a gentle­man who could not diſtinguish a claret colour from black. Theſe imperfections are totally unaccountable from any thing we yet know concerning the nature of this ſenſe.

*Second Sight.* See *Second Sight.*

SIGN, in general, the mark or character of ſomething absent or inviſible. See Character.

Among phyſicians, the term *ſign* denotes ſome ap­pearance in the human body which ſerves to indicate or

point out the condition of the patient with regard to health or diſeaſe.

Sign, in algebra. See Algebra, Part I.

Sign, in aſtronomy, a conſtellation containing a 12th part of the zodiac. See Astronomy, n⁰ 318.

Naval SIGNALS. When we read at our fire- ſide the account of an engagement, or other intereſting operation of an army, our attention is generally ſo much engaged by the reſults, that we give but little to the movements which led to them, and produced them, and we ſeldom form to ourſelves any diſtinct notion of the conduct of the day. But a profeſſional man, or one accuſtomed to reflection, and who is not ſatisfied with the mere indulgence of eager curioſity, follows every regi­ment in its movements, endeavours to see their connec­tion and the influence which they have had on the fate of the day, and even to form to himſelf a general notion of the whole ſcene of action at its different intereſting periods. He looks with the eye of the general, and sees his orders ſucceed or fail.

But few trouble themſelves farther about the narra­tion. The movement is ordered ; it is performed ; and the fortune of the day is determined. Few think how all this is brought about ; and when they are told that during the whole of the battle of Cuſtrin, Frederic the Great was in the upper room of a country inn, from whence he could view the whole field, while his aids de camp, on horseback, waited his orders in the yard below, they are ſtruck with wonder, and can hardly conceive how it can be done : but, on reflection, they ſee the poſſibility of the thing. Their imagination ac­companies the meſſenger from the inn yard to the ſcene of action ; they hear the General’s orders delivered, and they expect its execution.

But when we think for a moment on the situation of the commander of a fleet, confined on board one ſhip, and this ſhip as much, or more cloſely, engaged, than any other of the fleet ; and when we reflect that here are no meſſengers ready to carry his orders to ſhips of the ſquadron at the diſtance of miles from him, and to deliver them with preciſion and diſtinctneſs, and that even if this were poſſible by sending small ſhips or boats, the viciſſitudes of wind and weather may render the communication ſo tedious that the favourable mo­ment may be irretrievably lost before the order can be conveyed.—When we think of all theſe circumſtances, our thoughts are bewildered, and we are ready to ima­gine that a ſea-battle is nothing but the unconnected ſtruggle of individual ſhips ; and that when the admiral has once “ cried havoc, and let slip the dogs of war,” he has done all that his ſituation empowers him to do, and he muſt leave the fate of the day to the bravery and ſkill of his captains and bailors.

Yet it is in this ſituation, apparently the moſt unfa­vourable, that the orders of the commander can be conveyed, with a diſpatch that is not attainable in the operations of a laud army. The ſcene of action is un­incumbered, ſo that the eye of the General can behold the whole without interruption. The movements which *it* is poſſible to exccute are few, and they are preciſe. A few words are ſufficient to order them, and then the mere fighting the ſhips muſt always be left to their reſpective commanders. This ſimplicity in the duty to be performed has enabled us to frame a language fully adequate to the buſineſs in hand, by which a correſpondence can be kept up as far as the eye can ſee. This is