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| *The retreat,* | To retreat. |
| *Drum ceasing,* | To halt. |
| *Two shοrt rolls,* | To perform the flank firing. |
| *The dragoon march,* | To open the battalion. |
| *The grenadier march,* | To form the column. |
| *The troop,* | To double divisions. |
| *The long roll,* | To form the ſquare. |
| *The grenadier march,* | To reduce the ſquare to the column. |
| *The preparative,* | To make ready and fire. |
| *The general,* | To ceaſe firing. |
| *Two long rolls,* | To bring or lodge the colours. |

SIGNATURE, a ſign or mark impreſſed upon any thing, whether by nature or art. Such is the general ſignification of the word ; but in the plural number it has been uſed, in a particular ſenſe, to denote thoſe ex­ternal marks by which phyſiognomiſts and other dabblers in the occult ſciences pretend to diſcover the nature and internal qualities of every thing on which they are found. According to Lavater, every corporeal object is characterized by ſignatures peculiar to itſelf.

The doctrine of ſignatures, like alchemy and aſtrology, was very prevalent during the 15th and 16th cen­turies ; and was conſidered as one of the occult ſciences which conferred no ſmall degree of honour on their re­spective profeſſors. Some of theſe philosophers, as they thought fit to ſtyle themselves, maintained that plants, minerals, and animals, but particularly plants, had ſig­natures impreſſed on them by the hand of nature, indicating to the adept the *therapeutic* uſes to which they might be applied. Others, ſuch as the myſtic theoſophiſts and chemiſts of that day, proceeded much farther in abſurdity, maintaining that every ſubſtance in nature lad either *external* ſignatures immediately diſcernible, or *internal* ſignatures, which, when brought into view by fire or menſtrua, denoted its connection with ſome fiderial or celestial archetype. Of the doctrine of signatures, as it relates merely to the therapeutic uſes of plants and minerals, traces are to be found in the works of ſome of the greateſt authors of antiquity ; but the celeſtial ſignatures, we believe, were diſcovered only by the moonlight of the moukiſh ages, Pliny informs us@@\*, that the marble called *aphites,* from its being ſpotted ike a ſerpent, was diſcovered by thoſe ſpots to be a sovereign remedy for the bite of that animal ; and that he colour of the *haematites* or blood-ſtone intimated that it was fit to be employed to ſtop an hemorrhagy ; but we do not recollect his attributing the virtues of theſe minerals to a ſiderial or celeſtial influence.

Signature, a ſigning of a perſon’s name at the botom of an act or deed written by his own hand.

Signature, in printing, is a letter put at the bottom of the firſt page at leaſt, in each ſheet, as a direction to the binder in folding, gathering, and. collating, hem. The ſignatures conſiſt of the capital, letters of the alphabet, which change in every ſheet : if there be tore ſheets than letters in the alphabet, to the capital letter is added a ſmall one of the ſame sort, as A a, B b ; which are repeated as often as neceſſary. In large volumes it is eaſy to diſtinguiſh the number of alphabets, after the firſt three or four, by placing a figure before he literature, as 5 B, 6 B, &c.

SIGNET, one of the king’s ſeals, made uſe of in sealing his private letters, and all grants that paſs by

bill ſigned under his majeſty’s hand : it is always in the cuſtody of the ſecretaries of ſtate.

Signet, in Scots law. See Law, Part III. @@\* 17. SILENE, Catchfly, or V*iſcous Campion,* in bo­

tany : A genus of plants belonging to the claſs of *decandria,* and order of *trigynia* ; and in the natural ſyſ­tem arranged under the 22d *order,caryophylleœ.* The ca­lyx is ventricoſe; the petals are five in number, bifid and unguiculated, and crowned by a nectarium ; the capſule is cylindrical, covered, and trilocular. There are 26 ſpecies, of which 7 are natives of Britain and Ireland. 1. *Anglica,* the ſmall corn campion or catchfly. The ſtem is weak, hairy, and above a foot high ; the leaves are oblong, and grow in pairs at the joints ; the flowers are ſmall, white, and entire; they ſtand on footſtalks which iſsue from the alæ of the leaves ; they are erect, alternate, ſingle, and lateral. It grows in corn-fields, and flowers in June and July, 2. *Nutans,* Nottingham catchfly, The ſtem is about two feet high, and firm ; the radical leaves are broad, obtuſe, and grow in a tuft; thoſe on the ſtem are narrow and acute : the flowers are white, and grow in lateral panicles ; the petals are bifid and curled ; the calyx is long, bellying a little, with ten longitudinal striae. It grows in paſtures, and flowers in June and July. 3. *Amœna,* ſea-campion. The ſtem is two or three feet long, ſlender, procumbent, and branched alternately : the leaves are long and narrow : the flowers are white, and grow on oppoſite footſtalks, three on each, in unilateral bunches : the calyx is hairy and purpliſh, and has ten angles. It grows on the ſouth coaſt, and flowers in June and July. 4. Con*oidea,* greater corn catchfly, or campion. The leaves are narrow and soft ;. the calyx is conical, with 30 striae ; the flowers proceed from the divarications of the ſtem ; the petals are entire. It grows in corn fields, and flowers in June. 5. *Noctiflora,* night-flowering catch- fly. The ſtem is about two feet high, and forked; the calyx has ten angles, is ſomewhat clammy, and oval, with longer teeth than the other ſpecies ; the petals are of a reddiſh. white. 6. *Armenia,* broad-leaved catchfly, The ſtem is about 18 inches high, and erect, with few branches ; the leaves are ſmooth, ſeſſile, and broad at the baſe ; the flowers terminal, in faſtigiate bundles, ſmall, and red. It may be ſeen on the banks of rivers, and is in flower in July and Auguſt. 7. *Acaulis,* moſs

campion. The radical leaves are ſpread on the ground like a tuft of moſs ; the ſtalks are about an inch long, and naked, bearing each a ſingle purple flower. This laſt ſpecies grows on mountains, and has been found, in Wales and Scotland, within half a mile from their top. It is in flower in July.

SILESIA, a duchy of Germany, bounded on the eaſt by Poland ; on the west, by Bohemia and Lower Luſatia ; on the ſouth, by a chain of mountains, and a thicket of conſiderable extent which ſeparates it from Hungary; and to the north, by the marquiſate of Brandenburg and Poland. From north-weſt to ſouth- eaſt it is about 274 miles, and about 100 where broadeſt : but it is much contracted at both ends. Upon the frontiers of this country, to the west and ſouth, are ve­ry high mountains, and ſome likewiſe in other parts of it. One of the ridges upon the frontiers is ſtyled the *Riphaean Mountains,* another the *Moravian,* another the *Bohemian,* and another the *Hungarian, Crapack,* or Car-