stalk is thick, ſtrong, round, upright, hairy, and uſually riſes four feet in height : the leaves are numerous, very large, oval, entire, ribbed, plaited, without footſtalks, of a yellow- iſh green colour, and ſurround the ſtem at its baſe : the flowers are of a greeniſh colour, and appear from June to Auguſt in very long, branched, terminal ſpikes.

It appears from various inſtances, that every part of the plant is extremely acrid and poiſonous, as its leaves and even ſeeds prove deleterious to different animals.

The ancients, though ſufficiently acquainted with the vi- rulency of their white hellebore, were not deterred from employing it internally in ſeveral diſeaſes, eſpecially thoſe of a chronic and obſtinate kind, as mania, melancholia, hy­drope, elephantiaſis, epilepſia, vitiligo, lepra, rabies canina, &c*.* They conſidered it the ſafer when it excited vomiting, and Hippocrates wiſhed this to be its firſt effect. To thoſe of weak conſtitutions, as women, children, old men, and thoſe labouring under pulmonary complaints, its exhibition was deemed unſafe ; and even when given to the robuſt, it was thought neceſſary to moderate its violence by different combinations and preparations ; for it was frequently obser­ved to effect a cure, not only by its immediate action upon the primæ vïæ, but when no ſenſible evacuations was pro­moted by its uſe.

Greding employed it in a great number of caſes of the maniacal and melancholic kind ; the majority of thefe, as might be expected, derived no permanent benefit ; leve- ral, however, were relieved, and five completely cured by this medicine. It was the bark of the root, collected in the ſpring, which he gave in powder, beginning with one grain: this doſe was gradually incrcaſed according to its effects. With feme patients one or two grains excited nauſea and vomiting, but generally eight grains were required to pro­duce this effect, though in a few inſtances a ſcruple and even more was given.

Veratrum has likewiſe been found useful in epilepſy, and other convulſive complaints ; but the diſeaſes in which its efficacy ſeems leaſt equivocal, are those of the skin ; as ſcabies and different prurient eruptions, herpes, morbus pediculoſus, lepra, ſerophula, &c. and in many of theſe it has been ſucceſsfully employed both internally and exter­nally.

As a powerful stimulant, and irritating medicine, its uſe has been reſorted to only in deſperate cafes, and then it is firſt to be tried in very ſmall doſes in a diluted ſtate, and to be gradually increaſed according to the effects.

VERB, in grammar. See Grammar, Chap. IV.

VERBASCUM, in botany : A genus of plants of the claſs of *pentandria,* and order of m*onogynia ;* and in the na­tural ſyſtem arranged under the 2 8th order, *Luridœ,* The corolla is rotated, and rather unequal : the capſule is monolocular and bivalved. There are 12 ſpecies, five of which are natives of Britain ; 1. The th*apſus,* or great mullein, which has a ſtem single, simple, erect, covered with leaves, about fix feet high. Leaves large, broad, white, woolly on both ſides, ſeſſile, decurrent. Flowers terminal, in a long ſpike, ſeſſile, yellow.

Catarrhal coughs and diarrhoeas are the complaints for which it has been internally preſcribed. Dr Home tried it in both, but it was only in the latter diſeaſe that this plant succeeded. He relates four cases in which a decoction of verbascum was given ; and from which he con­cludes, that it “ is useful in diminiſhing or stopping diar­rhoeas of an old standing, and often in eaſing the pains of the inteſtines. Theſe acquire a great degree of irritability ; and the ordinary irritating cauſes, aliment, bile, diſtenſion from air, keep up a quicker periſtaltic motion. This is obviated by the emollient and perhaps gentle aſtringent qua­lities of this plant.”

2. The *nigrum,* or black mullein, having a ſtem beſet with hairs that are beautifully branched ; the bloſſoms yel­low, with purple tips. It is a beautiful plant, and the flowers are grateful to bees. Swine eat it; ſheep are not fond of it ; cows, horſes, and goats, refuse it. The other Britiſh. ſpecies are the lychnitis, nigrum, blattaſi, and virgatum.

VERBENA, in botany : A genus of plants of the claſs of *diandria,* and order of m*onogynia ;* and in the natural ſy­ſtem arranged under the 40th order, *Personatae.* There are 17 ſpecies, only one of which is a native of Britain ; the *of­ficinalis,* or common vervain, which grows on the road-ſides near towns and villages. The leaves have many jagged clefts, the blossoms are pale blue. It manifeſts a flight de­gree of aſtringency, and was formerly much in vogue as a deobſtruent ; but is now diſregarded. Mr Millar ſays that it is never found above a quarter of a mile from a houſe ; whence the common people in England call it *Simpler’s joy,* becauſe, wherever it is found, it is a certain ſign of a houſe being near. Sheep eat it ; cows, horſes, and goats refuſe it.

VERD (Cape), a promontory on the weſt coaſt of Africa, 40 miles north-weſt of the mouth of the river Gam­bia. W. Long. 17. 38. N. Lat. 14. 45.

The islands of Cape de Verd are ſeated in the Atlan­tic Ocean, about 400 miles weſt of tire Cape. They are between the 13th and 19th degree of latitude ; and the principal are 10 in number, lying in a ſemicircle. Their names are, *St Antony, St Pincent, St Lucia, St Nicholas,* the Is*le of Sal. Bona Vista, Mayo, St Jagο, Fuego,* and *Brava.*

VERDICT *(Vere dictum),* is the anſwer of the jury gi­ven to the court concerning the matter of fact, in any caſe- civil or criminal, committed by the court to their trial and examination. See Law, N⁰ clxxxvi. 51. and Trial.

VERDIGRISE,. the acetite of copper, much used by painters as a green colour. It is chiefly manufactured at Montpelier ; the vines of Languedoc being very convenient for this purpoſe. Sec Chemistry, n⁰ 872.

The following proceſs for making verdigriſe is deſcribed by Mr Monet of the Royal Society of Montpelier, and is publiſhed among the memoirs of the academy for the years 1750 and 1753.

Vine ſtalks well dried in the ſun arc ſteeped during eight days in ſtrong wine, and afterwards drained. They are then put into earthen pots, and upon them wine is poured. The pots are carefully covered. The wine undergoes the ace­tous fermentation, which in ſummer is finiſhed in ſeven or eight days ; but requires a longer time in winter, although this operation is always performed in cellars. When the fermentation is ſuſſiciently advanced, which may be known by obſerving the inner surface of the lids of the pots, which during the progreſs of the fermentation is continually wet­ted by the moiſture of the riſing vapours, the ſtalks are then to be taken out of the pots. Theſe ſtalks are by this me­thod impregnated with all the acid of the wine, and the re­maining liquor is but a very weak vinegar. The ſtalks are to be drained during ſome time in baſkets, and layers of them are to be put into earthen pots with plates of Swediſh copper, ſo diſpoſed that each plate ſhall reſt upon and be covered with layers of ſtalks. The pots are to be covered, with lids ; and the copper is thus left expoſed to the action of the vinegar, during three or four days, or more, in which time the plates become covered with verdigriſe. The plates, are then to be taken out of the pots, and left in the cellar three or four days ; at the end of which time they are to be moiſtened with water, or with the weak vinegar above men­tioned, and left to dry. When this moiſtening and drying