ſpecies; 15 are natives of Britain, only two of which have been applied to any uſe. 1. The *officinalis,* common male ſpeed- well, or fluellin ; a native of Britain, growing on heaths and barren grounds. The blossoms are blue, the leaves ellipti­cal, serrated, and hairy. The leaves have a ſmall degree of aſtringency, and are ſomewhat bitter. An infuſion of them is recommended by Hoffman as a subſtitute for tea ; but is more aſtringent and leſs grateful. The herb was formerly eſteemed in medicine for various diſorders, but is now almoſt totally diſuſed. Cows, ſheep, goats, and horſes, eat it; ſwine refute it. 2. The *beccabunga,* or common brook-lime, the flowers of which are blue, in looſe lateral ſpikes ; leaves ſeſſile, oval, oppoſite, thick, notched.

This plant was formerly conſidered as of much uſe in ſeveral diſeaſes, and was applied externally to wounds and ul­cers ; but if it have any peculiar efficacy, it is to be derived from its antiſcorbutic virtue. As a mild refrigerant juice it is preferred where an acrimonious ſtate of the fluids pre­vails, indicated by prurient eruptions upon the ſkin, or in what has been called the *hot ſcurvy.* We muſt, however, acknowledge, that we ſhould expect equal benefit from the same quantity of any other bland freſh vegetable matter taken into the ſyſtem. To derive much advantage from it, the juice ought to be uſed in large quantities, or the freſh plant eaten as food.

VERSAILLES, a town of France, in the late province of the Iſle of France, 10 miles weſt-ſouth-weſt of Paris. It contains 60,000 inhabitants, and since the Revolution has been created a biſhop’s see. In the reign of Louis XIII. it was only a ſmall village. This prince built here a hunt­ing-hut in 1630, which Bassompierre calls “ the paltry chateau of Verſailles.” Although the ſituation was low and very unfavourable, Louis XIV. built a magnificent pa­lace here, which was the uſual reſidence of the kings of France till the 6th of October 1789, when the late unfor­tunate Louis XVI. and his family were removed from it to the Thuilleries. The buildings and the gardens are adorned with a vaſt number of ſtatues, done by the greateſt maſters, and the water-works are all worthy of admiration. The great gallery is thought to be as curious a piece of workmanſhip of that kind as any in the world : nor is the chapel leſs to be admired for its fine architecture and orna­ments. The gardens, with the park, are five miles in cir­cumference, and ſurrounded by walls. There are three fine avenues to Verſailles, one of which is the common road to Paris, the other comes from Seaux, and the third from St Cloud. E. Long. 2. 12. N. Lat. 48. 48.

VERSE, in poetry, a line consisting of a number of long and ſhort ſyllables, which run with an agreeable ca­dence.

Verse is alſo uſed for a part of **a** chapter, ſection, &c.

VERSIFICATION, the art or manner of making verſe ; alſo the tune and cadence of verſe. See Poetry, Part III.

VERSION, a tranſlation of some book or writing out of one language into another. See Translation.

VERT, in heraldry, the term for a green colour. It is called *vert* in the blazon of the coats of all under the de­gree of nobles : but in coats of nobility it is called *emerald;* and in thoſe of kings *venus.* In engraving it is expressed by diagonals, or lines drawn athwart from right to left, from the dexter chief corner to the ſiniſter baſe.

VERTEBRÆ, in anatomy. See there n⁰ 30.

VERTEX, in anatomy, denotes the crown of the head. Hence vertex is alſo uſed figuratively for the top of other things : thus we say, the vertex of a cone, pyramid, &c.

Vertex, is alſo uſed in aſtronomy for the point of the heaven directly over our heads, properly called the z*enith.*

VERTICILLATÆ, the name of a claſs in Ray’s and Boerhaave’s Methods, conſiſting of herbaceous vegetables, having four naked ſeeds, and the flowers placed in whorls round the ſtalk. The term is ſynonymous to the *labiati,* or lip-flowers of Tournefort ; and is exemplified in mint, thyme, and ſavory. Verticillatæ is alſo the name of the 42d order in Linnaeus’s Fragments of a Natural Method, conſiſting of plants which anſwer the above deſcription.

VERTICILLUS, a mode of flowering, in which the flowers are produced in rings at each joint of the ſtem, with very ſhort foot-ſtalks The term is exemplified in mint, hore-hound, and the other plants of the natural order deſcribed above.

VERTICITY, is that property of the loadſtone where­by it turns or directs itſelf to one particular point.

VERTIGO, in medicine. See there, n⁰ 82.

VERTUMNUS, in mythology, a god who preſided over gardens and orchards, honoured among the Etruſcans, from whom the worſhip of this deity was tranſmitted to the Romans.

Ovid has deſcribed the various forms assumed by this dei­ty, in order to obtain the love of Pomona. Some have ſuppoſed that Vertumnus, whole name they derive *a vertendo,* becauſe he had power to change his form at pleaſure, mark­ed the year and its variations ; and thus they say he pleaſed Pomona, by bringing the fruits to maturity. Accordingly, Ovid says, that he assumed the form of a labourer, reaper, vine-dresser, and old woman, to repreſent the four ſeaſons, ſpring, ſummer, autumn, and winter. Vertumnus had a temple near the market-place at Rome, being repreſented as one of the tutelary deities of the merchants. The com­mentators on Ovid ſay, that he was an ancient king of Hetruria, who, by his diligent and ſucceſsful cultivation of fruits and gardens, obtained the honour of being ranked among the gods.

VERUMONTANUM, in anatomy, a ſmall eminence near the passages where the semen is discharged into the ure**thra.**

VERVAIN, in botany. See Verbena.

VERTOT d’Auboff (Rene Aubert de), a celebrated hiſtorian, was deſcended from a noble and ancient family in Normandy, and born in 1655. At 16 years of age he be­came a Franciſean friar ; afterwards he entered into the or­der of the Premonſtratenſes, in which he had ſeveral bene­fices ; and at length was a ſecular eccleſiaſtic. He became ſecretary to the duchess of Orleans, member of the Acade­my of Inscriptions, and hiſtoriographer of Malta. He died at Paris in 1735. His principal works are, 1. The Hiſtory of the Revolutions of Sweden. 2. The Revolutions of Portugal. 3. The Revolutions of the Romans. 4. The Hiſtory of Malta. Theſe works are written in elegant French, and translated into moſt of the languages of Europe.

VERULAM. See Bacon.

VESALIUS (Andreas), a celebrated phyſician and anatomiſt, was born at Brusſels about the year 1512. He ſtudied phyſic at Paris under James Sylvius; but applied himſelf chiefly to anatomy, which was then very little known, diſſections being eſteemed unlawful and impious; and it appears from his work *De humani corporis Jabrica,* that he perfected himſelf in this uſeful knowledge very early. About the year 1537, the republic of Venice made him professor in the univerſity of Padua, where he taught anatomy for ſeven years ; Charles V. called him to be his phyſician, as he was alſo to Philip. II. king of Spain. Vesalius was now at the height of his glory, when all of a hid­den he formed the deſign of taking a journey to Palestine; concerning which journey we are told the following ſtory. A young Spaniſh nobleman he attended, being, believed to