him at Alexandria were more solemn and extraordinary than thoſe of any other place.

Plutarch and Clemens of Alexandria, as well as Tacitus, inform us, that while the firſt Ptolemy was em­ployed in fortifying Alexandria with walls, adorning it with temples and ſtately buildings, there appeared to him in his ſleep a young man of extraordinary beauty, of a ſtature more than human, admoniſhing him to dispatch into Pontus ſome of his most truſty friends to bring from thence his ſtatue : he assured him, that the pity and kingdom which posseſſed it ſhould prove happy, glorious, and powerful. The young man having thus ſpoke, diſappeared, mounting up into heaven in a blaze of fire.

Ptolemy diſcovered his viſion to the priests : but find­ing them ignorant of Pontus, he had recourſe to an Athenian, who informed him that near Sinope, a city of Pontus, there was a temple much reſorted to by the natives, which was consecrated to Pluto, where he had a ſtatue, near which ſtood that of a woman. Ptolemy, neglecting the injunctions of the apparition, it again appended to him in a menacing attitude ; and the king immediately diſpatched ambaſſadors to the Serapian monarch, loaded with preterits, The king of Sinope consented ; but his ſubjects oppoſed the removal of the statue. The god, however, of his own accord, as we are informed, conveyed himſelf to the ambassador’s ſhip, and in three days landed in Alexandria, The ſtatue of Serapis was erected in one of the ſuburbs of the city, where a magnificent temple was afterwards reared.

The ſtatue of Serapis, according to Macrobius, was of a human form, with a baſket or buſhel on his head, signifying plenty ; his right hand leaned on the head of a ſerpent, whoſe body was wound round a figure with three heads, of a dog, a lion, and a wolf ; in his left hand he held a measure of a cubit length, as it were to take the height of the waters of the Nile. The figure of Serapis is found on many ancient medals,

The famous temple of Serapis at Alexandria was destroyed by order of Theodosius ; and the celebrated ſtatue of tins deity was broken in pieces, and its limbs carried firſt in triumph by the Chriſtians through the city, and then thrown into a fierce fire, kindled for that purpose in the amphitheatre. As the Egyptians aſcribed the overflowing of the Nile, to which was owing, the fertility of their country, to the benign influence of their god Serapis, they concluded, that now he was destroyed, the river would no longer overflow, and that a general famine would ensue ; but when they obſerved, on the contrary, that the Nile ſwelled to a greater height than had been known in the memory of man, and thereby produced an immenſe plenty of all kinds of proviſions, many of the pagans renouncing the worſhip of idols, adored the God of the Chriſtians.

SERENA gutta, the ſame as amau*rosis.* See MeDiCINE, 360.

SERENADE, a kind of concert given in the night by a lover to his mistreſs, under her window, Theſe sometimes only consiſt of inſtrumental music, but at other times voices are added ; the muſic and ſongs compoſed for theſe occasions are alſo called serenades.

SERENE, a title of honour given to ſeveral princes and to the principal magiſtrates of republics. The king of Britain, the republic and doge of Venice, and the children of the king of Spain, are called most serene; and when the pops or the ſacred college write to the emperor, to kings, or to the doge, they give them no other title. In like manner, the emperor gives no other title to any king, except to the king of France.

SERENUS (Sammonicus), a celebrated physician in the reigns of the emperor Severus and Caracalla, in and about the year 200. He wrote ſeveral treatiſes on hiſtory and the works of nature ; but there is only one of them extant, which is a very indifferent poem on the Remedies of Diſeaſea, He was murdered at a feſtival by the order of Caracalla. He had a library that con­tained 62,000 volumes, which Quintus Serenus Sammonicus his ſon gave to Gordian the Younger, to whom he was preceptor.

SERES (Ptolemy) : a people of the Farther Aſia ; bounded on the west by Scythia extra Imaum ; on the north and eaſt, by Terra Incognita ; and on the south, by India extra Gangem. According to theſe limits, their country anſwers nearly to Cathoy or North China. Other authors vary greatly in placing them, though, the generality agree in placing them far to the eaſt. Mela places them between the Indi and Scythæ ; and perhaps beyond the Indi, if we diſtinguiſh the Sinas from them. The ancients commend them for their cot­ton manufactures, different from the produce of the bombyces or silk-worms, called *fires* by the Greeks: whence serica "silk.”

SERGE, a woollen quilted fluff, manufactured on a loom with four treddles, after the manner of rateens, and other fluffs that have the whale. The goodneſs of serges is known by the quilting, as that of cloths by the ſpinning. Of ſerges there are various kinds, deno­minated either from the different qualities thereof, or from the places where they are wrought. The most considerable is the London ſerge, now highly valued abroad, particularly in France, where a manufacture is carried on with considerable ſucceſs, under the title of *ſerge facon de Londres.*

The method of making the London ſerge we ſhall now deſcribe: For wool, the longest is choſen for the warp, and the ſhortest for the woof. Before either kind is uſed, it is firſt ſcoured, by putting it in a copper of liquor, ſomewhat more than lukewarm, compoſed of three parts of fair water and one of urine. . After having flayed long enough therein for the liquor to diſſolve, and take off the greaſe, &c. it is stirred briskly about with a wooden peel ; taken out of the liquor, drained, and waſhed in a running water, dried in the ſhade, beaten with sticks on a wooden rack to drive out the coarſer duſt and filth, and then picked clean with the hands. Thus far prepared, it is greaſed with oil of olives, and the longeſt part, deſtined for the warp, is combed with large combs, heated in a little furnace for the purpoſe. To clear off the oil again, the wool is put in a liquor compoſed of hot water, with ſoap melted therein: whence being taken out, wrung, and dried, it is ſpun on the wheel.

As to the ſhorter wool, intended for the woof, it is only carded on the knee with small cards, and then ſpun on the wheel, without being ſcoured of its oil. It must be remarked, that the thread for the warp is al­ways to be ſpun much finer, and better twilled than that of the woof. The wool both for the warp and the woof being ſpun, and the thread divided into ſkains, that of the woof is put on ſpools (unleſs it have been

@@@[mu] Tae. Hist. 3. iv. cap. Plut. de Iside et Osiride. Clem. Alex. in Protrep.