*Parisian.* A branch of the Bohemian is called the *Giant Mountains.* The winter on theſe hilly tracks is more ſevere, ſets in ſooner, and laſts longer, than in the low lands. The inhabitants uſe a kind of ſkates when the ſnow is deep, as they do in Carniola. Little or no grain is raiſed in the mountains and ſome ſandy tracks; but the rest of the country is abundantly fruitful, not only in grain, but fruits, roots, paſture, flax, hops, mad­der, tobacco, and hemp, yielding alſo ſome wine, with conſiderable quantities of ſilk and honey. In many places are great woods of pines, fir, beech, larch, and other trees, affording tar, pitch, roſin, turpentine, lamp­black, and timber for all uſes. In this country alſo is found marble of ſeveral sorts, ſome precious ſtones, limestone, millſtone, pitcoal, turf, vitriol, ſome ſilver ore, copper, lead, iron, and mineral ſprrngs. Great num­bers of black cattle and horſes are brought hither from Poland and Hungary for ſale, thoſe bred in the coun­try not being ſufficient ; but of ſheep, goats, game, and veniſon, they have great plenty. As for wild beaſts, here are lynxes, foxes, weaſels, otters, and beavers. The rivers, lakes, and ponds, yield fiſh of ſeveral forts, parti­cularly ſturgeons ſeveral ells in length, and ſalmon. Be­ſides a number of ſmaller ſtreams to water this country, there is the Oder, which traverſes it almoſt from one end to the other ; and the Viſtula, which after a pretty long courſe through it enters Poland. The number of the cities and market-towns is ſaid to be about 200, the county of Glatz included, and that of the villages 5000. The inhabitants, who are computed to be about a mil­lion and an half, are a mixture of Germans, Poles, and Moravians. The language generally ſpoken is Ger­man ; but in ſome places the vulgar tongue is a dialect of the Sclavonic. The ſtates consiſt of the princes and dukes, and those called st*ate-lords,* with the nobili­ty, who are immediately ſubject to the ſovereign, and the repreſentatives of the chief cities ; but ſince the country fell under the dominion of the king of Pruſſia, no diets have been held. The king, however, when he took poſſeſſion of the country, confirmed all the other privileges of the inhabitants. With reſpect to religion, not only Proteſtants, but Papiſts, Jews, and Greeks, enjoy full liberty of conſcience. The greateſt part of Sileſia lies in the dioceſe of Breſlaw, but ſome part of it in the Poliſh dioceſes of Poſen and Cracow. The biſhop of Breſlaw ſtands immediately under the pope with regard to ſpirituals ; but all eccleſiaſtical benefices, not excepting the ſee of Breſlaw, is in the king’s gift. Beſides Latin ſchools, colleges, and ſeminaries, at Breſlaw is an univerſity, and at Lignitz an academy for martial exerciſes. The principal manufactures here are wool­lens, linens, and cottons of ſeveral forts, with hats, glaſs- ware, gunpowder, and iron manufactures. Of theſe there is a conſiderable exportation. Accounts are ge­nerally kept in rix-dollars, ſilver groſchens, and du­cats. With reſpect to its revolutions and preſent go­vernment, it was long a part of the kingdom of Poland; afterwards it had ſeveral dukes and petty princes for its ſovereigns, who by degrees became ſubject to the kings of Bohemia, until at laſt king Charles IV. incorporated the whole duchy with Bohemia ; and thus it continued in the poſſeſſion of the houſe of Auſtria, until the king of Pruſſia in 1742, taking advantage of the troubles that enſued upon the death of the emperor Charles VI. and pretending a kind of claim, wreſted a great part of it,

together with the county of Glatz, from his daughter and heireſs Maria Thereſa, the late empreſs-dowager ; ſo that now only a ſmall part of it is poſſeſſed by the houſe of Auſtria, and connected with the empire, the rest being governed by the king oſ Pruſſia, without acknowledging any sort of dependence on the crown of Bohemia or the empire. For the adminiſtration of juſtice in all civil, criminal, and feudal cases, and ſuch as relate to the revenue, the king of Pruſſia has eſtabliſhed three ſupreme judicatories, to which an ap­peal lies from all the inferior ones, and from which, when the firm exceeds 500 rix-dollars, cauſes may be moved to Berlin. The Lutheran churches and ſchools are under the inſpection of the upper consiſtories, and thoſe of the Papiſts under that of the biſhop’s court at Breſlaw ; but from both an appeal lies to the tribunal at Berlin. As to the revenue, the exciſe here is levied only in the walled towns, being on the ſame footing as in the marquiſate of Brandenburg ; but in the rest of the country the contributions are fixed, and the ſame both in peace and war. The ſeveral branches of the revenue are under the management of the war and domain of­fices of Breſlaw and Glogau. The whole revenue ariſing to the king of Pruſſia from Sileſia and the county of Glatz amounts to about four millions of rix-dollars *per annum.*

Sileſia is divided into Upper and Lower, and each of theſe again into principalities and lordships ; of ſome of which both the property and juriſdiction belong imme­diately to the ſovereign, but of others to his ſubjects and vaſſals. In regard to the character of the people, the boors are accounted very dull and ſtupid ; but of thoſe of a higher rank, many have diſtinguiſhed themſelves by their wit and learning, as well as by their military and political talents. However, in general, like their neigh­bours the Germans and Bohemians, they have more of Mars than Mercury in their compoſition, and their parts are more ſolid than ſhining.

SILESIAN earth, in the materia medica, a fine aſtringent bole. It is very heavy, of a firm compact texture, and in colour of a browniſh yellow. It breaks eaſily between the fingers, and does not ſtain the hands ; is naturally of a ſmooth ſurface, is readily diffuſible in water, and melts freely into a butter-like ſubſtance in the mouth. It leaves no grittineſs between the teeth, and does not ferment with acid menſtrua. It is found in the perpendicular fissures of rocks near the gold­mines at Strigonium in Hungary, and is ſuppoſed to be impregnated with the ſulphur of that metal. It is a good aſtringent, and better than moſt of the boles in uſe.

SILICERNIUM, among the Romans, was a feaſt of a private nature, provided for the dead ſome time af­ter the funeral. It conſiſted of beans, lettuces, bread, eggs, &c. Theſe were laid upon the tomb, and they fooliſhly believed that the dead would come out for the repaſt. What was left was generally burnt on the ſtone. The *word silicernium* is derived from si*lex* and cae*na,* i. e “a supper upon a ſtone.” Eating what had thus been provided for the dead, was eſteemed a mark of the moſt miſerable poverty. A ſimilar entertainment was made by the Greeks at the tombs of the deceaſed ; but it was uſual among them to treat the ghoſts with the fragments from the feaſt of the living. See FUNERAL and Inferiæ.