and creeping : the leaves, below the water, are ca­pillary ; above it are pinnated : the umbels are biſid. It grows in ditches and ponds. 3. *Segetum,* corn parſley, or honeywort. The ſtems are numerous, ſlender, ſtriated, branched, and leaning ; the leaves are pinna­ted ; the pinnae are oval, pointed, and ſerrated, six or eight pair, and one at the end ; the umbels ſmall and drooping ; the flowers minute and white. It grows in corn-fields and hedges. 4. Ve*rticillatum,* verticillate ſiſon, has ſmall leaves in whirls, and capillary ; the ſtem is two feet, with few leaves ; the common umbel is compoſed of 8 or 10 rays, the partial of 18 or 20; both in­volucra are compoſed of five or six oval acute foliola; the flowers are all hermaphrodite, and the petals white.

SISTRUM, or Cistrum, a kind of ancient muſical inſtrument uſed by the prieſts of Iſis and Oſiris. It is deſcribed by Spon as of an oval form, in manner of a racket, with three ſticks traverſing it breadthwiſe ; which playing freely by the agitation of the whole in­finiment, yielded a kind of found which to them ſeemed melodious. Mr Malcolm takes the ſiſtrum to be no better than a kind of rattle. Oiſelius obſerves, that the ſiſtrum is found repreſented on ſeveral medals, and on taliſmans.

SISYMBRIUM, water-cresses, in botany : A genus of plants belonging to the claſs of *tetradynamia,* and to the order of *ſiliquoſa ;* and in the natural ſyſtem ranged under the 39th order, *Siliquoſa.* The ſiliqua, or pod, opens with valves ſomewhat ſtraight. The ca­lyx and corolla are expanded. There are 29 species, of which eight are natives of Britain ; the naſturtium, or common water-creſs ; ſylveſtre, water-rocket ; amphibium, water-radiſh ; terreſtre, annual water-radiſh ; monenſe ; ſophia, flixweed ; irio, broad-leaved hedge- muſtard.

1 .The naſturtium grows on the brinks of rivulets and water ditches. The leaves have from 6 to 8 pair of ſmooth ſucculent and ſeſſile pinnæ ; the flowers are ſmall and white, and grow in ſhort spikes or tufts. The leaves of water-creſſes have a moderately pungent taſte, emit a quick penetrating ſmell, like that of muſtard ſeed, but much weaker. Their pungent matter is taken up both by watery and ſpirituous menſtrua, and accompa­nies the aqueous juice, which iſſues copiouſly upon expreſſion. It is very volatile, ſo as to ariſe in great part in diſtillation with rectified ſpirit, as well as with water, and almoſt totally to exhale in drying the leaves, or in- ſpiſſating by the gentleſt heat to the conſiſtence of an extract, either the expreſſed juice, or the watery or ſpirituous tinctures. Both the inſpiſſated juice, and the watery extract, diſcover to the taſte a ſaline impregna­tion, and in keeping throw up cryſtalline effloreſcences to the ſurface. On diſtilling conſiderable quantities of the herb with water, a ſmall proportion of a ſubtile vo­latile very pungent oil is obtained.

Water-creſſes obtain a place in the Materia Medica for their antiſcorbutic qualities, which have been long very generally acknowledged by physicians They are alſo ſuppoſed to purify the blood and humours, and to open viſceral obſtructions. They are nearly allied to ſcurvy-graſs, but are more mild and pleaſant, and for this reason are frequently eaten as ſalad. In the pharma­copoeias the juice of this plant is directed with that of ſcurvy-graſs and Seville oranges : and Dr Cullen has re­marked, that the addition of acids renders the juices of

the plantæ siliquoſae more certainly effectual, by deter­mining them more powerfully to an aceſcent fermenta­tion.

2. @@Silveſtre, or water-rocket. The ſtem is weak, branched, and above a foot high. The leaves are pinnated ; the pinnæ lance-ſhaped, and ſerrated ; the flowers ſmall, and yellow ; and grow frequently in ſhallow water.

3. Amphibium, or water-radiſh. The ſtem is firm, erect, and two or three feet high ; the leaves are pinnatiſtd, and ſerrated ; the flowers are yellow, and in ſpikes ; the pods are ſomewhat oval, and ſhort. It grows in water.

4. Terreſtre, or land-rocket. The leaves are pinnatiſid ; the pods are filled with ſeed ; the root is annual, and white ; the ſtem is angular, red-green, and ſmooth.

5. Murale, or wall-rocket. The ſtems are rough, and about eight inches high ; the leaves grow on foot-ſtalks, lance-ſhaped, ſmooth, ſinuated, and ſerrated; the flowers are yellow ; the pods a little compreſſed, and slightly carinated. It grows on ſandy ground in the North, Angleſea, &c.

6. Monenſe, or yellow rocket. The ſtem is ſmooth, and about 6 or 8 inches high ; the leaves are pinnatifid; the pinnæ remote, generally 7 pair ; the flower is yel­low ; the petals entire ; the calyx is cloſed. It grows in the Iſle of Man.

7. Irio, broad leaved rocket, or hedge muſtard ; the ſtem is ſmooth, and about two feet high ; the leaves are broad, naked, pinnated, and halberd ſhaped at the end ; the flowers are yellow, and the pods erect. It grows on waſte ground.

8. Sophia, flixweed. The ſtem is firm, branched, and two or three feet high ; the leaves are multifid ; the ſegments are narrow ; the flowers are yellow ; the petals much leſs than the calyx ; the pods are long, ſtiff, curved, without ſtyle, and erect ; the ſeeds are minute, and yel­low. It grows on walls, waſte ground, &c.

SISYPHUS, in fabulous hiſtory, one of the deſcendents of Eolus, married Merope, one of the Pleiades, who bore him Glaucus. He reſided at Epyra in Peloponneſus, and was a very crafty man. Others ſay, that he was a Trojan ſecretary, who was puniſhed for diſcovering ſecrets of ſtace ; and others again, that he was a notorious robber, killed by Theſeus. However, all the poets agree that he was puniſh­ed in Tartarus for his crimes, by rolling a great ſtone to the top of a hill, which conſtantly recoiled, and, rolling down inceſſantly, renewed his labour.

SISYRINCHIUM, in botany: A genus of plants belonging to the claſs of *gynandria,* and order of *triandria;* and in the natural ſyſtem ranged under the 6th or­der, *Enſata.* The ſpatha is diphyllous ; there are 6 plane petals. The capſule is trilocular and inferior. There are two species, the bermudiana and palmifolium.

SITE, denotes the ſituation of an houſe, &c. and ſometimes the ground-plot or ſpot oſ earth it ſtands on.

SITTA Nuthatch, in ornithology : A genus be­longing to the claſs of *aves,* and order of *pica.* It is thus characterized by Dr Latham. The bill is for the moſt part ſtraight ; on the lower mandible there is a ſmall angle ; noſtrils ſmall, covered with briſtles reflected over them ; tongue ſhort, horny at the end, and jagged ; toes placed three forward and one backward ;

@@@[mu] Berkenbout's Synopsis of Natural History.

@@@[mu] Latham's Orthinology, vol. ii. p. 647, &c.