*mi, fa, sol, la:* their office is principally, in ſinging, that by applying them to every note of the ſcale, it may not only be pronounced with more ease, but chiefly that by them the tones and ſemitones of the natural ſcale may be better marked out and diſtinguished. This design is obtained by the four ſyllables fa, s*ol, la, mi.* Thus from *fa* to *ſol* is a tone, allo from *ſol* to *la,* and from *la* to *mi,* without diſtinguiſhing the greater or leſs tone ; but from *la* to *fa,* also from *mi* to f*a,* is only a semitone. If then theſe be applied in this order, fa, sol, *la, fa,ſol, la, mi, ſa.* &c. they expreſs the natural series from C ; and if that be repeated to a second or third octave, we ſee by them how to expreſs all the different orders of tones and ſemitones in the diatonic scale ; and ſtill above *mi* will ſtand f*a, ſol, la,* and below it the ſame inverted *la, ſol, fa,* and one *mi* is always diſtant from another an octave ; which cannot be ſaid of any of the rest, becauſe after *mi* aſcending come always f*a, ſol, la,* which ate repeated invertedly deſcending.

To conceive the uſe of this, it is to be remembered, that the firſt thing in learning to sing, is to make one raiſe a ſcale of notes by tones and ſemitones to an oc­tave, and deſcend again by the lame ; and then to riſe and fall by greater intervals at a leap, as thirds and fourths, &c. and to do all this by beginning at notes of different pitch. Then thoſe notes are repreſented by lines and ſpaces, to which theſe ſyllables are applied, and the learners taught to name each line and ſpace thereby, which makes what we call *ſolfaing ;* the uſe whereof is, that while they are learning to tune the de­grees and intervals of ſound expreſſed by notes on a line or ſpace, or learning a ſong to which no words are ap­plied, they may not only do it the better by means of articulate sounds, but chiefly that by knowing the degrees and intervals expreſſed by thoſe ſyllables, they may more readily know the places of the semitones, and the true diſtance of the notes. See the article Sing­ing.

SOLFATERRA, a mountain of Italy in the kingdom of Naples, and Terra di Lavoro. This mountain appears evidently to have been a volcano in ancient times ; and the ſoil is yet ſo hot, that the workmen em­ployed there in making alum need nothing elſe besides the heat of the ground for evaporating their liquids. Of this mountain we have the following account by Sir William Hamilton. “Near Aſtruni (another moun­tain, formerly a volcano likewiſe) riſes the Solfaterra, which not only retains its cone and crater, but much of its former heat. In the plain within the crater, ſmoke iſſues from many parts, as alſo from its ſides : here, by means of ſtones and tiles heaped over the cre­vices, through which the ſmoke passes, they collect in an awkward manner what they call *ſale armoniaco ;* and from the sand of the plain they extract sulphur and alum. This ſpot, well attended to, might certainly produce a good revenue, whereas I doubt if they have hitherto ever cleared L. 200 a-year by it. The hollow ſound produced by throwing a heavy ſtone on the plain of the crater of the Solſaterra, ſeems to indicate that it is ſupported by a fort of arched natural vault and one is induced to think that there is a pool of water be­neath this vault (which boils by the heat of a ſubterraneous fire ſtill deeper), by the very moiſt steam that iſſues from the cracks in the plain of the Solfaterra, which, like that of boiling water, runs off a sword, or knife, preſented to it, in great drops. On the outſide, and at the foot of the cone of the Solfaterra, towards the lake of Agnano, water ruſhes out of the rocks ſo hot as to raiie the quickſilver in Fahrenheit’s thermo­meter to the degree of boiling water @@(a) ; a fact of which I was myſelf an eye-witneſs. This place, well worthy the obſervation of the curious, has been taken little notice of ; it is called the *Pisciarelli.* The com­mon people of Naples have great faith in the efficacy of this water ; and make much of it in all cutaneous dis­orders, as well as for another diſorder that prevails here. It ſeems to be impregnated chiefly with ſulphur and alum. When you approach your ear to the rocks of the Piſciarelli, from whence this water ouzes, you hear a horrid boiling noiſe, which ſeems to proceed from the huge cauldron that may be ſuppoſed to be under the plain of the Solfaterra, On the other ſide of the Solfaterra, next the ſea, there is a rock which has com­municated with the ſea, till part of it was cut away to make the road to Puzzole; this was undoubtedly a considerable lava, that ran from the Solfaterra when it was an active volcano. Under this rock of dava, which is more than 70 feet high, there is a ſtratum of pumice and ashes. This ancient lava is about a quarter of a mile broad; you meet with it abruptly before you come in sight of Puzzole, and it finishes as abruptly within about 100 paces of the town. The ancient name of the Solfaterra was *Forum Vulcani ;* a ſtrong proof of its origin from ſubterraneous fire. The degree of heat that the Solfaterra has preſerved for ſo many ages, ſeems to have calcined the stones upon its cone and in its crater, as they are very white and crumble eaſily in the hotteſt parts. See Chemistry, n⁰ 656.

SOLICITOR, a perſon employed to take care of and manage ſuits depending in the courts of law or equity. Solicitors are within the statute to be ſworn, and admitted by the judges, before they are allowed to practiſe in our courts, in like manner as attorneys.

There is alſo a great officer of the law, next to the attorney-general, wſho is styled the king’s ſolicitor-general ; who holds his office by patent during the king’s pleaſure, has the care and concern of managing the king’s affairs, and has fees for pleading, beſides other fees ariſing by patents, &c. He attends on the privy- council; and the attorney-general and he were anciently reckoned among the officers of the exchequer ; they have their audience, and come within the bar in all other courts.

SOLID, in philoſophy, a body whoſe parts are ſo

@@@(a) “I have remarked, that after a great fall of rain, the degree of heat in this water is much leſs ; which will account for what Padre Torre lays (in his book, intitled *Histoire et Phenonιenes du Veſuve),* that when he tried it in company with Monſieur de la Condamine, the degree of heat, upon Reaumur’s thermo­meter, was 68⁰.