evil genii, and particular local deities, who preside over foreſts and rivers, and interfere in all ſublunary affairs.

For the honour of human nature, we are happy to find ſo pure a ſyſtem of morality prevail among theſe people : It not only forbids its followers to do ill, but enjoins the neceſſity of doing good, and of ſtifling every improper thought or criminal deſire.

Thoſe who wiſh to peruſe a more particular account of the talapoins, may conſult *Voyage de Μ. de la Loubere ;* Sketches relating to the Hiſtory, &c. of the Hindoos ; or Payne’s Geography.

TALC, in mineralogy, a ſpecies of foſſil arranged under the magneſian earths. In Magellan’s edition of Cronſtedt’s Mineralogy, it is conſidered as a ſpecies of Mica, and has accordingly been mentioned by us under that article. On the other hand, Dr Kirwan has claſſed the mica under the ſiliceous earths, while he places talc under the magneſian. According to the analyſis of Dr Kirwan, “ talc conſiſts of pure magneſia, mixed with nearly twice its weight of ſilex, and leſs than its own weight of argil.” It is compoſed of broad, flat, and ſmooth lamina, or plates. There are two varieties of it, the Venetian talc and Muſcovy talc ; for the difference of which, see the article Mica.

The Venetian talc has not derived its name from being a production of the territories of Venice (for it is not often to be met with in that country), but probably from being an article of Venetian commerce. It abounds in England, Norway, Hungary, Bohemia, Spain, and in many countries of Asia. Venice talc, with half its weight of alkaline salt, may, in a ſtrong fire, be brought into perfect fuſion, though not to perfect tranſparency : with equal its weight, or leſs, of borax, it runs into a beautiful, pellucid, greeniſh yellow glaſs. Talc does not melt with any other earth, nor even take or cohere with any but the argillaceous : Mixtures of it with them all are nevertheleſs brought into fuſion by a re­markably leſs quantity of ſaline matter than the ingredients ſeparately would require. Thus equal parts of talc and chalk, with only one fourth their weight of borax, melt in no very vehement heat into a fine tranſparent greeniſh glaſs, of conſiderable hardneſs and great luſtre. On ſubſtituting gypſeous earths to chalk, the fuſion was as easy, and the glaſs as beautiful ; in colour not green, but yellow like the topaz. Talc, with half its weight of sand, and a quantity of nitre equal to both, yielded alſo a tranſparent topaz yel­low glaſs. Several further experiments on talc may be ſeen in a memoir by Mr Pott in the *Mem. de l'Acad, de Berlin, 1*746.

Muſcovy talc, called alſo *lapis ſpecularis,* is found in many parts. The iſland of Cyprus abounds with it. It is very common alſo in Ruſſia, and has of late been diſcovered to abound in the Alps, the Apennines, and many of the moun­tains of Germany.@@ It is imported in large quantities into England, and is uſed by the lanthorn-makers inſtead of horn ■in their nicer works ; by the painters to cover miniature pictures .; and by the microſcope-makers to preſerve ſmall objects for viewing by glaſſes. The ancients uſed it instead of glaſs in their windows. Some take the lapis ſpecularis to have been a ſpecies of gypſum, and compoſed of the acid of vitriol and calcareous earth. It came into uſe at Rome in the age of Seneca@@\* ; and ſoon after its introduction was ap­plied not only to lighten apartments, but to protect fruit- trees from the ſeverity of the weather; and it is recorded, that the emperor Tiberius was enabled, principally by its means, to have cucumbers at his table during almost every month in the year. Dr Watſon apprehends it is ſtill uſed in ſome countries in the place of glaſs : however, it is well known, that it was ſo uſed in the time of Agricola ; for he mentions@@\* two churches in Saxony which were lighted by it.

Agricola eſteemed it to have been a ſpecies of plaſter-stone ; and in ſpeaking of it he remarks, that though it could bear, without being injured, the heat of ſummer and the cold of winter, yet the largeſt masses of it were wasted by the rain. It differs from plaster-ſtone in this property,· that it does not, after being calcined and wetted with water, ſwell and concrete into a hard ſtony ſubstance@@\*.

Although we have treated of Muſcovy talc and lapis ſpecularis as the ſame, we are not ignorant that a distinction has been made between them by ſome chemiſts : but as we have found a greater degree of confuſion on this ſubject in ſeveral valuable ſystems of mineralogy than we had reaſon to expect, we continue the old names as formerly, till a more ſatisfactory analyſis make it proper to apply them differently.

Talc is employed, in thoſe places where it is found in any conſiderable quantity, in compositions for earthen veſſels ; and by ſome for teſts and cupels. From its ſmoothneſs, unctuosity, and brightneſs, it has been greatly celebrated as a coſmetic ; and the chemists have ſubmitted it to a variety of operations, for procuring from it oils, ſalts, tinctures, magisteries, &c. for that intention. But all their labours have been in vain ; and all the preparations sold under the name of talc have either contained nothing of that mineral, or only a fine powder of it.

TALENT, signifies both a weight and a coin very com­mon among the ancients, but very different among different nations.

The common Attic talent of weight contains 60 Attic minæ, or 6000 Attic drachmæ ; and weighed, according to Dr Arbuthnot, 56 lbs. 11 oz. 17 1/7 gr. Engliſh troy weight. There was another Attic talent, by ſome ſaid to conſiſt of 80, by others of 100 minæ. The Egyptian talent was 80 minæ ; the Antiochian alſo 80 ; the Ptolemaic of Cleopa­tra 86y ; that of Alexandria 96 ; and the Inſular talent 120. In the valuation of money, the Grecian talent, accord­ing to Dr Arbuthnot, was equal to 60 minæ, or, reckoning the mina at L. 5 : 4 : 7, equal to L. 193, 15s: The Syrian talent in this valuation conſiſted of 15 Attic minæ; the Ptolemaic of 20 ; the Antiochian of 60 ; the Euboic of 60 ; the Babylonic of 70 ; the Greater Attic of 80 ; the Tyrian of 80 ; the Eginean of 100 ; the Rhodian of 100 ; and the Egyptian of 80 minæ.

There is another talent much more ancient, which Dr Arbuthnot calls the *Homeric talent* of gold, which ſeems to have weighed six Attic drachms or three darics, a daric weighing very little more than a guinea. According to this talent, ſome reckon the treaſure of king David, parti­cularly that mentioned 1 Chron. xxii. 14. which, according to the common reckoning, would amount in gold talents to the value of L, 547,500,000, and the silver to above L. 342,000,000 ; or, reckoning according to the decuple proportion of gold to silver, the two ſums would be equal. A s David reigned in Judæa after the ſiege of Troy, it is not improbable but Homer and he might use the ſame numeral talent of gold.

Among the Romans there were two kinds of talents, the *little* and the *great* talent : the little was the common talent ; and whenever they say simply *talentum,* they are to be underſtood of this. The little talent was 60 minæ or Roman pounds ; the mina or pound eſtimated at 100 drachmæ or denarii : it was alſo eſtimated at 24 great ſeſterces, which amounted to 60 pounds.

The great talent exceeded the leſs by one-third part. Budæus computes, that the little talent of silver was worth L. 75 Sterling, and the greater L. 99 : 6: 8 Sterling. The greater of gold was worth L. 1125 Sterling.

Talent, as a ſpecies or money, among the Hebrews,

@@@[mu] Hill's Hist. of Foss. p. 72.

@@@[m]\* Ep. 90.

@@@[m]\* Ep. 90.

@@@[m]\* De Nat. Foss. lib. 5. p. 257.

@@@[m]\* Watson's Chem. Ess. vol. ii. p. 297, &c.