THEOPHRASTA, in botany ; a genus of plants be­longing to the class of *tentandria* and order of *monogynia.* The corolla is campanulated, with divisions and ſegments obtuſe ; the capſule unilocular, globular, very large, and many-ſeeded. There is only one ſpecies, the a*mericana.*

THEOPHRASTUS, the philosopher, was born about 371 years before Chriſt, and was ſucceſſively the diſciple of Plato and of Ariſtotle. He ſucceeded Ariſtotle in the Peripatetic ſchool, and conducted the charge with ſuch high reputation that he had about 2000 ſcholars. He is highly celebrated for his induſtry, learning, and eloquence ; and for his generoſity and public ſpirit. He is ſaid to have twice freed his country from the oppression of tyrants. He contributed liberally towards defraying the expence attend­ing the public meetings ot philoſophers ; which were held, not for the sake of show, but for learned and ingenious converſation. In the public ſchools he commonly appeared, as Ariſtotle had done, in an elegant dreſs, and was very attentive to the graces of elocution. He lived to the ad­vanced age of 85 : Some ſay of 107@@. Towards the cloſe of his life, he grew exceedingly infirm, and was carried to the ſchool on a couch. He expresſed great regret on ac­count of the ſhortneſs of life ; and complained that nature had given long life to stags and crows, to whom it is of ſo little value, and had denied it to man, who, in a longer duration, might have been able to attain the ſummit of ſcience ; but now, as ſoon as he arrives within ſight of it, is taken away. His laſt advice to his diſciples was, that, ſince it is the lot of man to die as ſoon as he begins to live, they would take more pains to enjoy life as it paſſes, than to acquire poſthumous fame. His funeral was attended by a large body of Athenians. He wrote many valuable works, of which all that remain are, several treatiſes on the Natural Hiſtory of Plants and Foſſils ; Of Winds, Of Fire, &c. a rhetorical work intitled “ Characters,” and a few Metaphyſical Fragments.

To Theophraſtus we are indebted for preſerving the works of Ariſtotle. See Aristotle.

THEOPOMPUS, a celebrated Greek orator and hiſtorian, was born in the iſland Chios, and flouriſhed in the reign of Alexander the Great. He was one of the moſt famous of all the diſciples of Isocrates, and won the prize from all the panegyriſts whom Artemiſia invited to praiſe Mauſolus. He wrote ſeveral works, which are lost.

THEOREM, a propoſition which terminates in theory, and which conſiders the properties of things already made or done ; or it is a ſpeculative propoſition deduced from comparing together ſeveral definitions. A theorem is ſome­thing to be proved, and a problem ſomething to be done.

THEORETIC, ſomething relating to theory, or that terminates in ſpeculation.

THEORY, in general, denotes any doctrine which ter­minates in ſpeculation, without conſidering the practical uſes or application thereof.

THEOSOPHISTS, a ſect of men who pretend to de­rive all their knowledge from divine illumination. They boaſt that, by means of this celeſtial light, they are not only admitted to the intimate knowledge of God, and of all divine truth, but have acceſs to the moſt sublime ſecrets of nature. They aſcribe it to the singular manifeſtation of divine benevolence, that they are able to make ſuch a uſe of the element of fire, in the chemical art, as enables them to diſcover the essential principles of bodies, and to diſcloſe stupendous myſteries in the phyſical world. They even pre­tend to an acquaintance with thoſe celeſtial beings which form the medium of intercourſe between God and man, and to a power of obtaining from them, by the aid of magic, aſtrology, and other ſimilar arts, various kinds of information and aſſiſtance.

To this claſs belonged Paracelſus, Robert Fludd, Jacob Boehmen, Van Hehnont, Peter Poiret, and the Roſicrucians. They are alſo called Fire*-Philoſophers,* which ſee.

THERAPEUTÆ, a term applied to thoſe that are wholly in the ſervice of religion. This general term has been applied to particular ſects of men, concerning whom there have been great diſputes among the learned.

THERAPEUTICS, that part of medicine which ac­quaints us with the rules that are to be obſerved, and the medicines to be employed, in the cure of diſeaſes.

THERIACA andromachi, a compound medicine made in the form of an electuary. See Pharmacy, n⁰ 605.

THERMÆ, hot baths or bagnios. Luxury and extra­vagance were in nothing carried to ſuch heights as in the thermæ of the Roman emperors. Ammian complains, that they were built to ſuch an extent as to equal whole pro­vinces ; from which Valeſius would abate, by reading piscinae inſtead of *provincia.* And yet after all, the remains of ſome ſtill ſtanding are ſufficient teſtimonies for Ammian’s cenſure ; and the accounts tranſmitted of their ornaments and furniture, ſuch as being laid with precious ſtones (Se­neca), ſet round with feats of ſolid ſilver (Pliny), with pipes and cisterns of the ſame metal (Statius), add to, rather than take from, the cenſure. The moſt remarkable bagnios were thoſe of Dioclesian and Caracalla at Rome, great part of which remains at this day ; the lofty arches, ſtately pil­lars, variety of foreign marble, curious vaulting oſ the roofs, great number of ſpacious apartments, all attract the curioſity of the traveller. They had also their ſummer and win­ter baths.

THERMOMETER, an inſtrument for meaſuring the degree of heat or cold in any body.

The thermometer was invented about the beginning of the 17th century; but, like many other uſeful inventions, it has been found impoſſible to aſcertain to whom the honour of it belongs. Boerhaave @@\* aſcribes it to Cornelius Drebbel of Alcmar, his own countryman. Fulgenzio@@\* at­tributes it to his master Paul Sarpi, the great oracle of the Venetian republic ; and Viviani gives the honour of it to Galilæo@@\*. But all theſe are poſthumous claims. Sanctorio @@\* claims this honour to himſelf; and his aſſertion is corrobo­rated by Borelli@@\* and Malpighi@@\* of the Florentine aca­demy, whoſe partiality is not to be suſpected in favour of a member of the Patavinian ſchool.

Perhaps the best way to reconcile theſe different claims would be, to ſuppoſe that the thermometer was really in­vented by different perſons about the ſame time. We know that there are certain periods in the progreſs of the arts when the ſtream of human genius runs in the ſame direc­tion, and moves towards the same object. That part of the current which reaches the object firſt may possess the title ; but the other parts follow ſo rapidly and arrive ſo ſoon after, that it is impoſſible for a ſpectator to decide which is firſt in point of time.

The firſt form of this inſtrument for meaſuring the de­grees of heat and cold, was the air-thermometer. It is a well known fact that air expands with heat ſo as to occupy more ſpace than it does when cold, and that it is condenſed by cold ſo as to occupy leſs ſpace than when warmed, and that this expansion and condenſation is greater or leſs ac­cording to the degree oſ heat or cold applſed. The prin­ciple then on which the air-thermometer was conſtructed is very simple. The air was confined in a tube by means of ſome coloured liquor ; the liquor rose or fell according as the air became expanded or condenſed. What the firſt form of the tube was, cannot now perhaps be well known; but the following deſcription of the air-thermometer will fully explain its nature.

The air-thermometer conſiſts of a glaſs tube BE, con-

@@@[mu]\* Enfield's History of Philosophy.

@@@[m]\* Chem. I. p. 152, 156.

@@@[m]\* Life. F. Paul, p. 158.

@@@[m]\* Vit. Galil. p. 67.

@@@[m]\* Corn. in Galen. p. 736-842.

@@@[m]\* De Mot. Animal. lb. prop. 175.

@@@[m]\* Opera Posib. p. 30.