colour, and ſeem to have been of the same ſpecies, as the black Muſcadines of the preſent day, which have lately been , tried in the iſland, I think, and found to be fitteſt for the climate. Theſe were pretty certainly brought into Britain a little after vines had been carried over all the kingdoms of Gaul, and about the middle of the third century ; when the numerous plantations had gradually ſpread over the face of the latter, and muſt naturally have continued their progreſs into the former.

The Romans, even nearly to the days of Lucullus, were very ſeldomable to regale themſelves with wine. Very little was then raised in the compaſs of Italy. And the foreign wines were ſo dear, that they were rarely produced at an entertainment; and when they were, each gueſt was indulged only with a ſingle draught. But in the ſeventh century of Rome, as their conquests augmented the degree of their wealth, and enlarged the ſphere of their luxury, wines be­came the object of particular attention. Many vaults were conſtructed, and good ſtocks of liquor deposited in them. And this naturally gave encouragement to the wines of the country. The Falernian roſe immediately into great re­pute ; and a variety of others, that of Florence among the rest, ſucceeded it about the cloſe of the century. And the more weſterly parts of the European continent were at once ſubjected to the arms, and enriched with the vines, of Italy.

But the ſcarcity of the native, and dearneſs of the foreign, wines in that country, ſeveral ages before the conqueſt of Lancaſhire, had called out the spirit of invention, and occaſioned the raking of factitious wines. Theſe were ſtill con­tinued by the Romans, and naturally taught to the Britons. And they were made of almoſt all the products of the or­chard and garden, the pear, the apple, mulberry, ſervis, and roſe. Two of them, therefore, were thoſe agreeable liquors which we ſtill denominate *cyder* and *perry.* The latter would be called *ſyrum* by the Romans, and is therefore call­ed *perry* or *pear-water* by us. And the former assumed among the Romans the appellation of si*cera,* which was col­loquially pronounced by them si*dera,* as the ſame pronunci­ation of it among the preſent Italians ſhows ; and retains therefore the denomination of *cyder* among ourſelves.

VITREOUS Humour of the eye. See Anatomy, n⁰ 142.

VITRIFICATION, in chemiſtry, the conversion of a body into glaſs by means of fire. See Glass.

VITRIOL, a compound ſalt, formed by the union of iron, copper, or zinc with the ſulphurſe acid. It is of three colours, white, blue, and green, according to the metal. See Chemistry-Index.

VITRIOLATED, among chemiſts, ſomething impreg­nated, or ſupposed to be ſo, with vitriol or its acid.

VITRIOLIC acid. See *Sulphuric Acid* and Chemistry-*Index.*

VITRUVIUS POLLIO (Marcus), a very celebrated Roman architect, was, according to the common opinion, born at Verona, and lived in the reign of Auguſtus, to whom he dedicated his excellent treatiſe on architecture, di­vided into ten books. William Philander’s edition of this celebrated work is eſteemed. Claudius Perrault has given an excellent tranſlation of it in French, with learned notes. There are alſo ſeveral Engliſh tranſlations of Vitruvius.

VITUS’s Dance. See Medicine, n⁰ 284.

VIVERRA, the weasel ; a genus of quudrupeds be­longing to the order of feræ, They have six fore-teeth, the intermediate ones being shorter, and more than three grinders, and the claws are exſerted. There are 27 ſpecies, the principal of which are,

1. The ichneumon, with the tail tapering to a point, and the toes diſtant from each other ; inhabits Egypt, Barbary, India and its iſlands. It is there a moſt uſeful animal, be­ing an inveterate enemy to the ſerpents and other noxious reptiles which infeſt the torrid zone : it attacks without dread that moſt fatal of ſerpents the Naja, or Cobra de Ca­pello; and ſhould it receive a wound in the combat, inſtantly retires, and is said to obtain an antidote from a certain herb (according to Sparmann the *opblorhiza)* ; after which it returns to the attack, and ſeldom fails of victory : it is **a** great deſtroyer of the eggs of crocodiles, which it digs out or the land; and even kills multitudes of the young of thoſe terrible reptiles : it was not therefore without reaſon that the ancient Egyptians ranked the ichneumon among their deities. This animal is at preſent domeſticated and kept in houſes in India and in Egypt, for it is more uſeful than **a** cat in deſtroying rats and mice ; and grows very tame. It is very active ; ſprings with great agility on its Drey ; will glide along the ground like a ſerpent, and ſeem as if with­out feet. It sits up like a ſquirrel, and eats with its fore­feet, catching any thing that is flung to it. It is a great enemy to poultry, 2nd will feign itſelf dead till they come within reach : loves fiſh ; draws its prey, after sucking the blood, to its hole. Its excrements are very fetid ; when it ſleeps, it brings its head and tail under its belly, appearing like a round ball, with two legs flicking out. Rumphius obſerves how ſkilfully it ſeizes the ſerpents by the throat, ſo as to avoid receiving an injury; and Lucan beautifully deſcribes the same addreſs of this animal in conquering the Egyptian aſp.

2. The vulpecula, or ſtifling weaſel, has a ſhort ſlender noſe ; ſhort ears and legs ; black body, full of hair ; the tail long, of a black and white colour ; length from noſe to tail about 18 inches. It inhabits Mexico, and perhaps other parts of America. This and ſome other ſpecies are remark­able for the peſtiferous, ſuffocating, and moſt fetid vapour they emit from behind, when attacked, purſued, or frightened : it is their only means of defence. Some turn their tail to their enemy, and keep them at a diſtance by a fre­quent crepitus; and others ejaculate their urine, tainted with the horrid effluvia, to the diſtance of 18 feet. The purſuers are stopped with the terrible stench. Should any of this li­quor fall into the eyes, it almoſt occaſions blindneſs : if on the clothes, the ſmell will remain for ſeveral days, in ſpite of all waſhing; they muſt even be buried in freſh soil, in order to be ſweetened. Dogs that are not true bred, run back as ſoon as they perceive the ſmell : those that have been uſed to it, will kill the animal ; but are often obliged to relieve themſelves by thrusting their noſes into the ground. There is no bearing the company of a dog that has killed one for ſeveral days. Profeſſor Kalm was one night in great danger of being ſuffocated by one that was purſued into a houſe where he ſlept; and it affected the cattle ſo, that they bellowed through pain. Another, which was killed by a maid-ſervant in a cellar, ſo affected her with its stench, that ſhe lay ill for ſeveral days ; all the proviſions that were in the place were ſo tainted, that the owner was obliged to throw them away. Notwithstanding this, the fleſh is rec­koned good meat, and not unlike that of a pig; but it muſt be ſkinned as ſoon as killed, and the bladder taken carefully out. It breeds in hollow trees, or holes under ground, or in clefts of rocks; climbs trees with great agility; kills poultry ; eats eggs, and destroys young birds.

3. The zibetha, or civet-cat, has ſhort rounded ears ; the back and sides cinereous, tinged with yellow, marked with large duſky ſpots diſpoſed in rows ; the hair coarſe ; that on the top of the body longeſt, standing up like a mane ;