Like the *marum Syriacum* and *valerian* in the case of cats, it has a very extraordinary fascinating power on these animals. This oil, as it is extremely dear, is therefore spa­ringly used. It is exalted in a small quantity in the place, and at the entrance of it, where the rats are intended to be taken, particularly at the time when they are to be last brought together, in order to their destruction: and it is used also by smearing it on the surface of some of the im­plements used in taking by the method described below. Its effect in removing their caution and dread, by the delight which they appear to have in it, is very extraordi­nary. It is likewise usual for the operator to disguise his figure as well as scent. This is done by putting on a sort of gown or cloak, of one colour, that hides the natural form, and makes him appear like a post, or some such inanimate thing, which habit must likewise be. scented as above, to overpower the smell of his person; and besides this, he is to avoid all motion till he has secured his point of having the rats in his power.

When the rats are thus enticed and collected, where time is afforded, and the whole in any house and out-buildings are to be cleared away, they are suffered to regale on what they most like, which is ready prepared for them, and then to go away quietly for two or three nights; by which means those that are not allured the first night, are brought afterwards, either by their fellows, or the effects of the trailing, &c., and will not fail to come duly again, if they are not disturbed or molested. Many of the rat-catchers make shorter work, and content themselves with what can be brought together in one night; but this is never effectual, unless where the building is small and entire, and the rats but few in num­ber.

The means of taking them when brought together are various. Some entice them into a very large bag, the mouth of which is sufficiently capacious to cover nearly the whole floor of the place where they are collected. This is done by smearing some vessel, placed in the middle of the hag, with oil of rhodium, and laying in the bag baits of food. The bag, which before lay flat on the ground with the mouth spread open, is to be suddenly closed when the rats are all in. Others drive or frighten them, by slight noises or motions, into a bag of a long form, the mouth of which, after all the rats are come in, is drawn up to the opening of the place by which they entered, all other ways of retreat being secured. Others, again, intoxicate or poi­son them, by mixing with the repast prepared for them, the *coculus Indicus,* or the *nux vomica.* They direct four ounces of *coculus Indicus,* with twelve ounces of oatmeal, and two ounces of treacle or honey, made into a moist paste with strong beer; but if the *nux vomica* be used, a much less proportion will serve than is here given of the *coculus.* Any similar composition of these drugs, with that kind of food which rats are most fond of, and which has a strong flavour to hide that of the drugs, will equally answer the end. If in­deed c*oculus Indicus* be well powdered, and infused in strong beer for some time, at least half the quantity here directed will serve as well as the quantity before mentioned. When the rats appear to be thoroughly intoxicated with the cocu- lus, or sick with the nux vomica, they may be taken with the hand and put into a bag or cage, the door of the place being first shut, lest those which have strength remaining should make their escape.

In destroying rats, advantage may be taken of that re­markable degree of instinct which they possess of deserting one place, where they find themselves disturbed or harass­ed, and retiring to new haunts. It is well known, that af­ter one or two rats are poisoned, or taken in traps, or wound­ed or otherwise injured, and afterwards permitted to escape, the whole colony immediately disappears. The practice, however, of destroying by poison rats that frequent dwell­ing-houses, should be as much as possible avoided ; for they retire to places behind the wainscot, &c. from which, after death, their putrid bodies, emitting a most offensive smell, cannot be removed. But it is far less difficult than is ge­nerally imagined to secure the different apartments of a dwelling-house, and even the cellars, from the inroads of rats and mice, and thus to prevent their unwelcome visits, by shutting up the passages through which they enter. Stone and lime, when they can be applied, are effectual ; but common plaster, by introducing pieces of broken pot­tery ware or glass along with it, will also answer the pur­pose ; and even a piece of cork, with a pin or two stuck through it to prevent them from eating it away, is a com­plete barrier to mice entering through a hole in wood, and may even prevent the entrance of rats. We have seen this method of shutting up the holes, as soon as they were opened by the industry of the enemy, steadily pursued for some time, attended with the fullest success, even in an old house of considerable extent, and finished from top to bottom with wood, some of which was much decayed.

For the sake of food, rats and mice often frequent gar­dens, fields, and woods, in the summer season ; but, on the approach of winter, they return to their former haunts in the habitations of man ; and accordingly it is observed that houses which are free from those vermin during the summcr, swarm with them about the end of autumn. At­tention to this circumstance in the habits of these animals, may be the means of securing us from their visits and de­predations ; for if, at the time alluded to, every hole and cranny through which mouse or rat can enter, be shut up, and carefully kept close and secure, the perseverance of the foe is exhausted and overcome by repeated and constant resistance, and thus he is forced to abandon the unequal contest, and to retire to other haunts where his motions are less interrupted.

Various other methods have been proposed for the de­struction of rats ; and although we have thrown out a bint against the use of arsenic for this purpose in dwelling­houses, yet where it can be employed with perfect safety, and without risk of the nuisance alluded to, as in cellars and outhouses. It is undoubtedly one of the most effectual to which we can have recourse.

Suffocating these vermin by means of the fumes of sul­phur, as on board of ships, in granaries, and other buildings, which can be shut up, is sometimes successfully prac­tised. Rats and other vermin have also been effectually destroyed by burning wood in close apartments, thus pro­ducing fixed air or carbonic acid gas, by which they are suffocated.

Moles.@@1 *—*The mole is found in all parts of Great Britain. It is seldom or never seen above the surface of the ground, except when forced out of its subterraneous abode by ex­cessive drought and heat, by inundations, or by very hard frost. In size it is a little larger than the dormouse, and smaller than the common rat, measuring from five to six inches in length, exclusive of the tail. The male is con­siderably larger than the female. The body is completely covered with very fine glossy black hair or fur, softer and finer than silk, or the fur of the beaver, inclining to a brownish hue on the abdomen.@@2 Its nose is long, and re­sembles that of the hog ; its eyes are very quick and per­ceptible when the animal is alive. Instead of external ears,

@@@, The observations on the structure and habits of the mole, and on the mode of trapping it, have been communicated by Mr. Thomas Yeadell of Preston, for many years practically engaged in the art of mole-catching.

@@@, Whole families of fine cream-coloured moles have sometimes been taken ; and Mr Yeadell once took a whole litter of piebalds, but he never took or saw a perfectly white one.