months, he returned to Spain, and anchored at Cadiz the 15th October 1498.

The year following he revisited America, and after sail­ing along the coast under the tropics, be returned by the island of St. Domingo, where Ojeda had some encounters with the Europeans who six years before had come to the island with Columbus. The fleet then steered northwards and discovered several islands, which Amerigo, by a poeti­cal exaggeration, raised to the number of a thousand. In 1501 he entered the service of Emmanuel, king of Portugal, and again visited America, sailing along the coast of Brazil to Patagonia. He made a fourth voyage to America in 1503, with the view of attempting the discovery of a western pas­sage to Malacca; in this, however, he was unsuccessful, and returned with the loss of one of his ships. About this time the vast continent discovered by Columbus began to be called America, from his Latinized name *Americus;* and he lived to enjoy the usurped honour for several years. His death took place in 1516, while he was in the service of Em­manuel, king of Portugal, who caused the remains of his ves­sels to be preserved in the cathedral of Lisbon, and heaped honours on his family. He left a journal of four of his voya­ges, which was printed at Paris in Latin, in 1552, and from which translations were afterwards published in the Italian and French languages.

VESTA, in pagan worship, the same with Cybele. See Cybele.

Vesta the *Younger,* in pagan worship, the goddess of fire, was the daughter of Saturn and Cybele, and the sister of Ceres. She was so much in love with chastity, that on Jupiter’s ascending the throne, and offering to grant what­ever she asked, she only desired the preservation of her virginity, which she obtained. Vesta was not represented in her temple by any image.

Vesta, one of the lately discovered planets. See Astronomy**.**

VESTALIA, in Roman antiquity, a festival celebrated in honour of the goddess Vesta, on the 5th of the ides of June ; that is, on the 9th of the month.

VESTALS, among the ancient Romans, were priestesses of the goddess Vesta, and had the perpetual fire committed to their charge. They were at first only four in number, but afterwards increased to six ; and it does not appear that their number ever exceeded six, among whom was one su­perior to the rest, and called *vestalis maxima.* The vestals were chosen from six to ten years of age, and obliged to strict continency for thirty years ; the first ten of which were employed in learning the ceremonies of religion, the next ten in the performance of them, and the last ten in teaching them to the younger vestals. The habit of the vestals con­sisted of a head-dress, called *injula,* which sat close to the head, and from whence hung certain laces called *vitta ;* a kind of surplice made of white linen, and over it a purple mantle with a long train to it.

VESTIBULE, in *Architecture,* a kind of entrance into a large building ; being an open place before the hall, or at the bottom of the staircase.

VESTRY, a place adjoining to a church, where the vestments of the minister are kept ; and also a meeting at such place, consisting of the minister, church-wardens, and chief men of most parishes, who make a parish vestry or meeting. By custom there are select vestries, being a certain number of persons chosen to have the government of the parish, make rates, and take the account of church­wardens, &c.

VESUVIUS, a celebrated volcano of Italy, six miles east from the city of Naples. This mountain has two tops ; one of which only goes by the name of *Vesuvius,* the other be­ing now called *Somma;* but Sir William Hamilton is of opinion, that the latter is what the ancients called *Vesuvius.* The perpendicular height of Vesuvius is only 3700 feet, though the ascent from the foot to the top is three Italian miles. One side of the mountain is well cultivated and fer­tile, producing great plenty of vines, but the south and west sides are entirely covered with cinders and ashes ; while a sulphureous smoke constantly issues from the top, sometimes attended with the most violent explosions of stones, the emission of great streams of lava, and all the other attendants of a most formidable volcano. The first of these eruptions recorded in history took place in the year 79 ; at which time the two cities of Pompeii and Hercula­neum were entirely buried under the stones and ashes thrown out. Incredible mischief was also done to the neighbouring country, and numbers of people lost their lives, among whom was the elder Pliny.

It is the opinion of the best judges, however, that this eruption was by no means the first that had ever happened. The very streets of those cities which were at that time overwhelmed, are said to be partly paved with lava. Since that time thirty different eruptions have been recorded, some of which have been extremely violent. In the year 1538, a mountain, three miles in circumference, and a quar­ter of a mile in perpendicular height, was thrown up in the course of one night.

The first great eruption taken notice of by Sir William Hamilton was that of 1767, which, though very violent, was mild in comparison with that of 1538. From this time Vesuvius never ceased for ten years to send forth smoke, nor were there many months in which it did not throw out stones, scoriae, and cinders ; which, increasing to a certain degree, were usually followed by lava ; so that from the year 1767 to 1779 there were nine eruptions, some of them very considerable. In the month of Au­gust that year, an eruption took place, which, for its ex­traordinary and terrible appearance, has been generally reckoned among the most remarkable of any recorded con­cerning this or any other volcano. We cannot, however, afford room for any description of it here, or of the various eruptions which have since taken place. See Geo­logy.

**VETERINARY SCIENCE.**

The knowledge and the enlightened treatment of the dis­eases of domestic animals have, in this country, been elevated to the rank of a science only within the last fifty years. Previously to that time, the art of Farriery consisted in the traditionary lore of the worker in iron, *faber ferrarius,* or smith; and in later times, in the professional skill of a few medical practitioners, who were not, however, sufficiently careful to ascertain the many striking differences which exist between the economy of man, and that of the lower animals. The modern term *veterinary,* derives its origin from the Latin *veterinarius,* an adjective denoting relation to beasts of burden. The same word, used as a substan­tive, signifies a person who has the care of such beasts. The etymology is, however, involved in considerable obscurity. The first veterinary school was founded at Lyons in the year 1761, and another was founded at Alfort, near Paris, in 1766. In the year 1792 the Veterinary College of London was established, and it is to this date that the origin of the science in this country may be correctly assigned. More recently a school of veterinary medicine has been founded