

3. With mucilaginous matter; as in the potatoe, and many other roots, in unripe corn.
4. With saccharine matter in most roots, and in corn after it has begun to germinate.
5. With oil; in the emulsive seeds, almonds, &c.
6. With an acrid principle; as in the root of the burdock, jatropha manihot, arum asarum, and other tuberous roots.

Medical use.—As a constituent of many vegetable substances, it forms a most important alimentary substance. In a medical point of view, it is to be considered as a demulcent; and accordingly, it forms the principal ingredient of an officinal lozenge, and a mucilage prepared from it often produces excellent effects, both taken by the mouth, and in the form of a clyster in dysentery and diarrhœa, from irritation of the intestines. Externally flour or starch is the usual application in erysipelalous affections of the skin, but upon what principle is not very apparent, unless it be an empirical practice remaining from the pathology which dreaded the repulsion of all external inflammations.

TUSSILAGO FARFARA. *Ed. Lond. Dub.*
Willd. g. 1483, sp. 12. Smith, g. 360, sp. 1. Syngenesia serperflua.—Nat. ord. *Compositæ radiatæ.*

Colts-foot.

Off.—The herb and flowers.

a) FOLIA TUSSILAGINIS FARFARÆ. *Ed.*

TUSSILAGO. *Lond. Dub.*

b) FLORES TUSSILAGINIS FARFARÆ. *Ed.*

This herb grows wild in moist situations, producing yellow flowers in March and April, which soon are succeeded by large roundish leaves, hairy underneath; their taste is herbaceous, somewhat glutinous and subacid.

Medical use.—Colts-foot is recommended in coughs, phthisis, and other disorders of the breast and lungs, and some use it in scrofula. Its effects probably depend more on the milk in which it is commonly directed to be taken, than on the tussilago itself.

ULMUS CAMPESTRIS. *Ed. Lond. Dub.*
Willd. g. 505, sp. 1. Smith, g. 117, sp. 1. Pentandria Digynia.—Nat. ord. *Scabridæ.*

Common elm.

Off.—The inner bark.

CORTEX INTERIOR ULMI CAMPESTRIS. *Ed.*

ULMI CORTEX. *Lond.*

ULMI CORTEX INTERIOR. *Dub.*

THIS tree grows wild in Britain. It flowers in April. The inner bark has a yellowish colour, and a mucilaginous, bitter, astringent taste, without smell.

In decoction it has been highly recommended in the lepra ichthyosis, and has been said to cure dropsies, but it requires a patient trial.

VALERIANA OFFICINALIS. *Ed. Dub.*

VALERIANA OFFICINALIS (Sylvestris). *Lond.*

Willd. g. 75, sp. 6. Smith, g. 15, sp. 3. Triandria Monogynia.—Nat. ord. *Aggregatæ.*

Wild valerian.

Off.—The root.

RADIX VALERIANÆ OFFICINALIS. *Ed.*

VALERIANÆ RADIX. *Lond. Dub.*

THIS plant is perennial, and varies in its appearance and sensible qualities, according to the situation in which it grows. In marshes and shadowy places its leaves are broader, on dry heaths and high pastures they are narrower. The roots produced in low watery-grounds have a remarkably faint smell in comparison with the others, and sometimes scarcely any. The roots taken up in autumn or winter have also much stronger sensible qualities than those collected in spring and summer.

The root consists of a number of strings or fibres matted together, issuing from one common head, of a whitish or pale brownish colour. Its smell is strong, like a mixture of aromatics with fetids; the taste unpleasantly warm, bitterish, and subacid. Neumann got from 480 grains of the dry root 186 alcoholic, and 74 watery extract; and inversely, 261 watery and 5 alcoholic. The distilled alcohol was slightly, the water strongly, impregnated with the smell of the valerian, but no separable oil was obtained.

Medical use.—Wild valerian is a medicine of great use in nervous disorders, and is particularly serviceable in epilepsies proceeding from a debility of the nervous system. Some recommend it as procuring sleep, particularly in fever, even when opium fails; but it is principally useful in affections of the hysterical kind.

The common dose is from a scruple to a drachm in pow-