THE

PHILOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE:

COMPREHENDING

THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF SCIENCE,

THE LIBERAL AND FINE ARTS,

AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURES,

AND

COMMERCER.

BY ALEXANDER TILLOCH,

MEMBER OF THE LONDON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

"Nec aranearum fute textus fdeo melior; quia ex se fila gignunt. Nec neotet

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XIII. On an Epidemical Disease among Cats. By J.F. Blumenbach.

The disease among the cats, which prevailed lately in Denmark and various other countries of Europe, and which in Lombardy destroyed a great many of these useful animals, induced the Council of Health at Pavia to make an inquiry into the nature of it, and to cause the result to be published by one of their members, Professor Brera, in a small but interesting pamphlet under the title of *Memoria sull' attuale Epidemia de' Gatti*.

The cats attacked by this disease seemed dejected and weak, and had an aversion to approach man; crawled about as if under great oppression; would neither eat nor drink; and could not endure any of the three plants of which they are commonly so fond, *Marum verum*, Valerian, and Cat's mint. In the course of the disease the weaknness and dullness increased; they could fearcely support themselves on their legs; their hair stood erict; they let their tail hang down, and their head droop so that their neck appeared as if prolonged; their ears were flabby and cold; the eyes seemed smaller, and the pupil contracted; the tongue was dry, and covered with yellow film; they discharged from the mouth a whitish green foam, were for the most part costive, breathed short, and had a quick feverish pulse, accompanied with burning heat. They at length became like mere skeletons, were seized with violent convulsions, and generally died on the fourth or fifth day of the disease; which, according to the symptoms, was a nervous fever, accompanied with dejection. It is, however, far from being always mortal; and many of the animals attacked by it recovered again gradually, without any asillance.

† It was published at Pavia last year (1798), and consists of thirty-six pages quarto.
On an Epidemical Disease among Cats.

The method in which this disease was treated was entirely Brownmonian; that is, half an ounce of Cyprus wine, with a scruple of pulverised valerian root, was given four times a day to the diseased animals: aloes, and the juice of garlic, were administered in some spirituous vehicle, and also fumigations with vinegar. The proposal for destroying every cat attacked by this disease was, with great propriety, rejected; but it was at the same time ordered, that those which died of it should be buried at a sufficient depth in the earth; that the bodies should be covered with lime; and that the places where they were found dead should be washed with vinegar, ley of wood-ashes, or lime-water. It was recommended also to separate, as much as possible, found animals from those infected; to give them nourishing food; to lay before them, in particular, their three favourite plants; and to fumigate them often with the steam of vinegar.

That excellent physician and naturalist Professor Schacht, of Harderwyk, informed me, by a letter dated in May 1796, that the cats in his neighbourhood had for some weeks been attacked by a disease which bore some resemblance to a prurient eruption. The violent itching occasioned a defluxion of the eyes, which continually watered, and they at length became blind; their teeth at the same time dropped out, and they died soon after with lamentable cries. It had been observed in the preceding months, from February to April, that their cries in the night-time, on account of their pairing, had been extraordinarily strong and loud.

Dr. Darwin, in his Zoonomia*, mentions another epidemic which prevails at times among the cats, and which he calls Parotidis felina. It announces itself by a violent fever with inflammation, and abundant suppuration in the region of the salivary glands beneath the lower jaw. He compares it to a disease lately known called the Mumps (Augina parotidea), and is inclined to believe that it was first communicated to cats by infection from the human race. He men-

* Vol. II. p. 129.
On the Preparation of Crayons for Drawing, &c. 299

tions also a disease which affects the neck and head of cats, by which the greater part of these animals in Westphalia died; and refers to a passage in Sauvage’s Nofologia*, which however, in an extract of that work in three large volumes octavo†, now before me, I have not been able to find.

XIV. On the Preparation of Crayons used for Drawing, from the Paste of Reddye. By C. F. Lomet‡.

In most drawing-schools, and particularly those at a distance from the capital, many difficulties are experienced for want of good crayons. Those sawed from red chalk, which are in common use, are almost always hard, gritty, and often of an unequal consistence; so that the touches in the drawings for which they are used can never have the strength or correctness necessary to produce the desired effect. The only good crayons used in France are manufactured exclusively at Paris, where they are sold very dear: the best sort have been long known by the name of the paste crayons of Desmarats, who apparently was the inventor. As no author who has written on the composition of these crayons has pointed out the proportions of the ingredients necessary to be used, I made many trials with every combination of the substances that appeared to me proper for making them. I rejected those products which did not answer the objects of my research; and I here subjoin those mixtures that gave me satisfactory results.

These pencils are composed of the softer kind of reddle, which is an oxyde of iron mixed with earth of an argillaceous nature, and called hematites, or bog-ore. It must be incorporated with some agglutinating substance, such as gum, size, or resin; to which sometimes soap is added, to

* Nofol. cl. X. art. 30. 8.
† Amst. 1753.
‡ From the Annales de Chimie, No. 90. an. 7.