

ment, the operator might have an opportunity of discovering the contents of an unknown substance in a third way.

S E C T I O N II.

On Mineral Substances in general.

E X P E R I M E N T I.

1. POUR distilled water on the mineral substance you want to examine; if it dissolves the same, or part of it, either cold, or infused with warm or hot water, and put in a vessel in sand near a fire, for digestion; or by boiling it; and if the water by this means becomes impregnated with particles affecting the tongue with a sharp or pungent sensation, the mineral substance thus examined is of a *saline* nature, or a kind of SALT.
2. It must be observed, that the greater part of pure saline substances dissolve readily in water, except selenites and arsenic (which dissolve only by boiling), and such substances which are commonly called *ores*; and which likewise yield their saline particles when infused in water, after some other previous operations afterwards to be mentioned. The mineral substances intended for examination, ought to be pounded.
3. Saline substances will most commonly melt when put on the fire, and some of them crackle; others, on the contrary, will cause during fusion an ebullition and froth. Fumes arise from them all during the operation.

E X P E-