

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

17. IF a stony or earthy substance cannot be ranged among the calcareous ones, according to Experiment IV. it may be pounded, infused with any of the acids, and then set in sand near a fire, for digestion. If then all the substance, or the greater part of it dissolves, and, by the gradual addition of a solution of salt of tartar, yields a kind of precipitate, which after repeated washings proves to be a real MAGNESIA *, or an absorbent earth, which with acid of vitriol forms the true *Epsom-salt*, the substance thus examined belongs to the class wherein the amiant, the asbest, the talc, and the various kinds of pott, bacon, serpentine, and hip-or nephritic-stone ought to be ranged, and may be called *atectous* stones †.

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

18. TAKE such stony and earthy substances as, by the foregoing Experiments, IV. and V. prove to be neither calcareous nor atectous, (*i. e.* with a basis of magnesia), pound the stony ones, and such as are earthy wash carefully, and separate thus from them all the stones, grit, or sand, and then infuse the dried earth or pounded stone with acid of vitriol. If part of it, or the whole dissolves, and, after a few drops of a solution of salt of tartar are put into it, the solution, being decanted and evaporated, will

* See Dr. Black's Paper on the *Magnesia*, in the Philosophical and Literary Essays, published at Edinburgh, vol. II.

† For the curious experiments on the abovementioned substances, see *Margraff's Oeuvres Chymiques*, vol. II.

yield