418

ZINC.

country. Dr Bruce, to whom we are indebted for every. thing we know of this mineral, remarks: " The recently discovered property of the malleability of zinc, at a temperature of 300° of Fahrenheit, has greatly enhanced its value, and raised it to a high rank among the useful metals. The inconvenience arising from its brittleness, being removed, this metal is now applied to many of the purposes for which copper has been hitherto used. As the demand for metallic zinc must necessarily increase as its application to the arts becomes more general, the red zinc-ore will prove a source from which this metal may be procured in abundance; and a series of experiments sufficiently shews the ease with which it may be separated from the ore. In the manufacture of brass, this ore possesses advantages over those generally used; as, without previous preparation of ustulation, &c. it affords with copper a compound possessing a high degree of malleability, a fine colour, and every requisite of the best kind of brass, such as is used in the finest and most delicate workmanship, equal in every respect to that made from the reduced metal, or, as it is more generally termed, spelter. This mineral may also be advantageously employed in the manufacture of sulphate of zinc, or white vitriol of commerce. Experiments also prove, that the oxide or flowers of zinc may, without much difficulty, be obtained from this ore. The oxide of zinc has of late been recommended as a substitute for white-lead as a pigment, over which it possesses some advantages, as it is not liable to change, and in its preparation is not subject to those deleterious consequences so frequently attendant on all the preparations of lead."

Observations.