

Asia.—In Natolia and China.

America.—Zimapan in Mexico; and the north-west territory of the United States*.

Observations.

1. Its foliated fracture distinguishes it from *sulphur*.

2. Hausman, at page 209. of his *Mineralogy*, describes a third subspecies of orpiment, under the name *Slaggy Orpiment*, and which he says has a conchoidal fracture, and glistening resinous lustre, and is found at Andreasberg in the Hartz.

3. This substance appears to differ from the arsenic of the ancients. It differs from the substance commonly called Arsenic at the present day, in containing a portion of sulphur; and in being consequently of a yellow colour; whereas our arsenic is perfectly white.

Pliny and Theophrastus describe arsenic as having a yellow colour. Thus Pliny says, that the best arsenic is “coloris in auro excellentis.” Theophrastus says, on account of its resemblance in colour, *ochra* (ὄχρα) is used instead of arsenic; but the term ὄχρα itself is apparently derived from its yellow colour; and that it was of this colour, appears further probable, from its being changed to a red by calcination, which is mentioned by Theophrastus; and being thus converted into the substance called *μειλτος*, which answers exactly to our red-ochre. Of *Sandaraca*, which is used as a synonym for realgar or red orpiment, Pliny says, “melior quo magnis rufescit.” The term *Αρσενικόν*, from which our word Arsenic is derived, was an epithet applied by the ancients to those natural substances, the properties of which were found to be of a strong, and, as it were, *masculine* character; and as the poisonous quality of arsenic was soon found to be remarkably

* Also in Dr Murray's collection.