

and chemical processes. How this may be done, I shall illustrate by a mere example.

Suppose we had ascertained by previous experiments, (in the way I have mentioned in the foregoing part, in which I have treated of simple and compound salts) that an earth contained a mixture of different salts, as *sulphate of magnesia*, *muriate of potash*, *sulphate of iron*, *sulphate of potash*, and *sulphate of soda*; we then may proceed in the following way: A certain quantity of such earthy substances which has been previously dried for two hours, in the heat of boiling water, is extracted and freed from the saline parts, by digesting it with about 50 parts of distilled water, in a glass matras; after which the whole is put upon a filtre, and the liquor thus separated, the remainder upon the filtre is washed with a little water, then dried in the same heat, and for the same time as before, and its weight ascertained, which indicates by the loss, the quantity of saline parts which were contained in it. A certain quantity of the saline liquid is taken, evaporated to dryness by a gentle heat; this is first digested with high rectified spirits of wine, as long as the spirits will dissolve any of the salt. This spirituous solution is then mixed with a little pure water, and freed from the spirits of
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