

his stay at Rio Janeiro. Among other things, he has sent to Sir Joseph Banks specimens of Ipecauanha; from which it appears, that both the grey and the brown species of it are found in the neighbourhood of that place. This piece of intelligence will be interesting to botanists; for although two species are mentioned by Piso in the work* just now referred to, yet it seems to have been pretty generally supposed by later writers on the materia medica, that only one of them, viz. the brown, is found in Brasil.

IX. *An Account of an Experiment lately made at Florence in a case of Hydrophobia. Communicated by Mr. J. Fabbroni, Assistant Director of the Cabinet of Natural History of his Royal Highness the Grand Duke of Tuscany, and Secretary of the Royal Academy of Agriculture at Florence, in a Letter to Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. P. R. S. and by him to Dr. Simmons.*

DURING the last summer we had a great number of mad dogs in the neighbourhood of this city, and in the city itself. Seve-

* Page 231.

ral persons, who were bit by them, died of hydrophobia; and their bodies were examined after death, but without affording any information relative to the disease. The viscera were uniformly healthy, except in one subject in which the lungs were found adhering to the pleura; but, in all of them, the brain was observed to be more loaded with blood than usual.

In one case, an experiment, which the physicians here have long had an idea of making*, and from which they were not without some hopes, was tried. It was indeed somewhat bold, but in the horrid and hopeless state to which the unhappy patients in such cases are reduced, every thing seems to be allowable; and the person on whom the experiment was tried appeared to be so near his end, that it was thought he could not possibly survive more than an hour.

In this case, a viper was applied to each of the patient's legs, and at the very instant of the bite the symptoms seemed to increase in

* We formerly had occasion to mention, that M. de Mathis, a Neapolitan surgeon, from the event of an experiment on a dog, had recommended the bite of the viper, as a remedy in hydrophobia. See vol. v. p. 220.—EDITOR.

violence;

violence; but this was only momentary, as he immediately became more calm and collected, gave an account of his relations, asked for something to drink, and even drank; but died within half an hour.

This experiment did not seem to be at all conclusive either for or against; but it occasioned so much popular clamour, that I think it will hardly be repeated here, at least on a human subject*.

Florence,

Nov. 20, 1787.

X. *An Experiment to determine the Effect of extirpating one Ovarium upon the Number of Young produced. By John Hunter, Esq. F.R.S. —From the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Vol. lxxvii. for the Year 1787. Part II. 4to. London, 1787.*

IN all animals of distinct sex, the females, those of the bird kind excepted, have, I believe, two ovaria, and of course the oviducts are in pairs.

* It certainly deserves to be recorded, that such an experiment, as the one here related, has been made in the hydrophobia; but it would seem, that at the time the vipers were applied, nothing satisfactory could be expected from this or any other experiment.—EDITOR.

By