A HAND-BOOK OF CHEMISTRY: WITH NINETEEN ILLUSTRATIONS

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A Hand-Book of Chemistry: With Nineteen Illustrations by Francis Gurney Smith & John Neill

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FRANCIS GURNEY SMITH & JOHN NEILL

A HAND-BOOK OF CHEMISTRY: WITH NINETEEN ILLUSTRATIONS



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H A N D-B O O K

CHEMISTRY.

0

HAND-BOOK

CHEMISTRY:

with Wineteen - Illustrations.

BEING A PORTION OF

AN ANALYTICAL COMPENDIUM

OF THE

VARIOUS BRANCHES OF MEDICINE.

BY

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SECOND EDITION, REVISED AND IMPROVED.

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1852.

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CHEMISTRY.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS.

Physical Science, in its most extended sense, comprises the two great divisions of Natural History and Natural Philosophy. The former includes Anatomy, Zoology, Botany, and Mineralogy; the latter embraces Chemistry, Geology, Physiology, and Mechanies.

CHEMISTRY may be defined to be the science which investigates the molecular changes of bodies; or more strictly, that which treats

of the laws that relate to chemical attraction.

The whole material world is subject to Force; this it is which produces change in bodies. Two great opposing forces appear to exist,—Attraction and Repulsion: the cause of either is unknown, and purely speculative. Bodies are either solid, liquid, or gaseous, according as one or other of these two forces preponderate; thus, if the molecules of a body adhere with a force called cohesion, so that an exterior power is required to separate them, the body is termed a solid; if the cohesion is only such as to allow the particles to move upon each other, it is named a liquid; and if the particles are kept apart by a repulsive force (supposed to be Caloric), it is denominated a gaseous body.

Attraction comprises several species or subdivisions, as Cohesion, Chemical Attraction or Affinity, Gravitation, Capillarity, and En-

dosmose.

Cohesion.—This is the attraction between homogeneous particles. It is only exerted at insensible distances, the molecules never being in absolute contact, otherwise the property of elasticity could not exist, since this requires space for the molecules to move in.

Chemical Attraction or Affinity.—This is the attraction between heterogeneous particles. Like cohesion, it is exerted only at inappreciable distances; in other words, apparent contact must take

place.

Gravitation.—This attractive force is displayed between masses, and at sensible distances. It gives weight to bodies, and it is the