

Encyclopædia Britannica;

OR, A

DICTIONARY

OF

ARTS and SCIENCES,

COMPILED UPON A NEW PLAN.

IN WHICH

The different SCIENCES and ARTS are digested into
distinct Treatises or Systems;

AND

The various TECHNICAL TERMS, &c. are explained as they occur
in the order of the Alphabet.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY COPPERPLATES.

By a SOCIETY of GENTLEMEN in SCOTLAND.

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M. DCC. LXXI.

Geometrical paces.

Mile of Germany	4000
of Denmark	5000
of Hungary	6000

MILFORD HAVEN, the most commodious harbour in Great Britain, situated in the south west part of Pembroke-shire in Wales, at the north entrance of the Bristol channel.

MILIARY, in general, something resembling millet-seeds.

MILIARY FEVER. See **MEDICINE**, p. 73.

MILITANT, or **CHURCH MILITANT**, denotes the body of Christians while here on earth.

MILITARY, something belonging to the soldiery or militia.

MILITIA, in general, denotes the body of soldiers, or those who make profession of arms.

In a more restrained sense, militia denotes the trained bands of a town or country, who arm themselves, upon a short warning, for their own defence. So that, in this sense, militia is opposed to regular or stated troops.

For the direction and command of the militia, the king constitutes lords-lieutenants of each county.

MILIUM, in botany, a genus of the triandria digynia class. The corolla consists of two valves including one flower. There are five species, only one of which, viz. the effusum, or millet-grass, is a native of Britain.

MILK, a well known animal fluid, which nature prepares in the breasts of women, and the udders of other animals, for the nourishment of their young. Milk is a liquor prepared from the aliment chewed in the mouth, digested in the stomach, perfected by the force and juices of the intestines, and elaborated by means of the mesentery and its gland and juices, and the juices of the thoracic duct. It has undergone some actions of the veins, arteries, heart, lungs, and juices, and began to be assimilated; yet may still be had separate and discharged out of the body. And thus by their own milk, prepared from the proper matter of the chyle, all the known lactiferous animals are nourished, both male and female. For milk is always prepared from chyle as well in men as in women, in virgins and barren women, in mothers and nurses. Milk approaches nearer to an animal nature than chyle.

If milk be good, and suffered to rest in a clean vessel, it first appears uniformly white; then throws up a white, thick, unctuous cream to its surface, and remains somewhat bluish below. The milks of all the known animals have these properties alike. The human milk is very sweet and thin, the next is that of asses, then that of mares, then of goats, and lastly of cows: whence it is prescribed in this order to consumptive persons of weak viscera. The rennet prepared of the juices of such creatures as chew the cud being mixed with milk, coagulates it into an uniform mass, which may be cut with a knife, and it thus spontaneously separates into whey and curds; if long boiled over the fire, it loses its more fluid parts, and condenses into a butyraceous and cheesy mass.

Milk is an efficacious remedy in disorders of the breast. But it is to be observed, that all milks are not of the same kind, and of the same efficacy for all purposes; since, according to the diversity of animals and their respective foods, they are possessed of different and peculiar qualities which are to be considered apart. First, then, asses milk, contains a great deal of sweet serum, but a very small quantity of earthy, caseous, and pinguious substance; for which reason it is not easily coagulated, and, consequently, but very unfit for butter and cheese. Its whey is astringent, laxative, moistening, and proper for correcting the acrimony of the humours. Goats milk does not contain so large a quantity of whey as that of asses, nor is it of so laxative and astringent a nature, but of a thicker consistence; and, as goats eat the leaves of trees which contain something of a resinous quality, their milk is very efficacious for the consolidation of suppurated parts. Cows-milk is more pinguious, contains a large quantity of earth, but less whey, for which reason it generally yields a great deal of butter and cheese. This species of milk is of a temperating, nutritive and consolidating virtue. Womens milk, for medicinal purposes, is preferable to all others; for it is the sweetest of them all, and its nutritive quality is sufficiently observable in infants. The virtues of milk are also different, according to the diversity of herbage and pasturage which animals eat. Hence milk in the spring is highly salutary, because at that time the vegetables abound with temperate juices; whereas milk in the winter is accounted less salutary, because the animals feed on hay and straw.

Dr. Cheyne recommends a milk and seed diet, with water for drink, as the surest preservative against diseases, and cure of them.

MILK FEVER. See **MIDWIFERY**, p. 244.

MILL, a machine or engine for grinding corn, &c. of which there are several kinds, according to the various methods of applying the moving power; as water-mills, wind-mills, mills worked by horses, &c. See **MECHANICS**.

MILLENARIANS, or **CHILIASTS**, a name given to those, who, in the primitive ages, believed that the saints will one day reign on earth with Jesus Christ a thousand years.

MILLEPES. See **ONISCUS**.

MILLERIA, a genus of the syngenesia polygamia necessaria class. It has neither receptacle nor pappus; the calix consists of three valves; and the radius of the corolla is dimidiated. There are two species, both natives of America.

MILLET, in botany. See **MILIUM**.

MILLING of cloth. See **FULLING**.

MILLION, in arithmetick, the number of ten hundred thousand, or a thousand times a thousand. See **ARITHMETICK**.

MILLREE, a Portuguese gold coin, value 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

MILO, or **MELO**, one of the islands of the Archipelago, sixty miles north of Candia.

MILT, or **MELT**, is a denomination by which some call the rows of fishes.

MILTON,