

MORDANTS, in dyeing, signify those substances, which are employed for the purpose of macerating the stuffs, and rendering them capable of imbibing the tinging matter. Of this nature are, the sulphat of alumine : acidulous tartarite of potash ; the solution of tin in nitro-muriatic, and oxygenated muriatic acids : the vegetable astringent principle, or gallic acid; acetite of alumine ; sulphat of copper, or blue vitriol; arsenic ; acetite of copper, or verdigris; and the sulphate of zinc, or white vitriol.

Mordants act on stuffs in two different ways : 1. By parting with a portion of their oxygen, in consequence of which the substance of such stuffs is changed, and their attraction for the pigment or colouring matter is increased ; and, 2. By altering, in a similar manner, the nature of the pigment, and rendering it capable of coagulation. Thus the colouring matter undergoes several changes, and receives various degrees of a lighter or darker shade.