

der the Califate of Haroun Al-Raschid, several important works, probably those known under the half-fabulous name of Tscharaka and Susruta,* were translated from the Sanscrit into Arabic. Avicenna, who possessed a powerful grasp of mind, and who has often been compared to Albertus Magnus, affords, in his work on *Materia Medica*, a striking proof of the influence thus exercised by Indian literature. He is acquainted, as the learned Royle observes, with the true Sanscrit name of the Deodar of the snow-crowned Himalayan Alps, which had certainly not been visited by any Arab in the eleventh century, and he regards this tree as an alder, a species of juniper, from which oil of turpentine was extracted.† The sons of Averroes lived at the court of the great Hohenstaufen, Frederic II., who owed a portion of his knowledge of the natural history of Indian animals and plants to his intercourse with Arabian literati and Spanish Jews, versed in many languages.‡ The Calif Abdurrahman I. himself laid out a botanical garden at Cordova,§ and caused rare seeds to be collected by his own travelers in Syria and other countries of Asia. He planted, near the palace of Rissafah, the first date-tree known in Spain, and sang its praises in a poem expressive of plaintive longing for his native Damascus.

The most powerful influence exercised by the Arabs on general natural physics was that directed to the advances of

* Royle, p. 35-65. Susruta, the son of Visvamitra, is considered by Wilson to have been a cotemporary of Rama. We have a Sanscrit edition of his work (*The Sus'ruta, or System of Medicine taught by Dhawantari, and composed by his disciple Sus'ruta*, ed. by Sri Madhusúdana Gupta, vol. i., ii., Calcutta, 1835, 1836), and a Latin translation, *Sus'rutas. áyurvedas. Id est Medicinæ Systema a venerabili Dhavantare demonstratum, a Susruta discipulo compositum*. Nunc pr. ex Sanskrita in Latium sermonem vertit Franc. Hessler, Erlangæ, 1844, 1847, 2 vols.

† Avicenna speaks of the Deidur (*Deodar*), of the genus 'abhel (*Juniperus*); and also of an Indian pine, which gives a peculiar milk, *syr deidur* (fluid turpentine).

‡ Spanish Jews from Cordova transmitted the opinions of Avicenna to Montpellier, and principally contributed to the establishment of its celebrated medical school, which was framed according to Arabian models, and belongs to the twelfth century. (Cuvier, *Hist. des Sciences Naturelles*, t. i., p. 387.)

§ Respecting the gardens of the palace of Rissafah, which was built by Abdurrahman Ibn-Moawijeh, see *History of the Mohammedan Dynasties in Spain extracted from Ahmed Ibn-Mohammed Al-Makkari*, by Pascual de Gayangos, vol. i., 1840, p. 209-211. "En su Huerta planto el Rey Abdurrahman una palma que era entonces (756) unica, y de ella procedieron todas las que huy en España. La vista del arbol acrentaba mas que templaba su melancolia." (Antonio Coude, *Hist. de la Dominacion de los Arabes en España*, t. i., p. 169.)