reaching the size of a finger and being used for medical purposes."[1] It is accordingly the old experience that the Chinese, as soon as they became acquainted with a foreign product, searched for it on their own soil, and either discovered it there, or found a convenient substitute. In this case, Su Suṅ plainly indicates that the domestic substitute was of inferior quality; and there can be no doubt that this was not sal ammoniac, which is in fact not found in China, but, as has been demonstrated by D. HANBURY,[2] chloride of sodium. As early as the eighteenth century it was stated by M. COLLAS[3] that no product labelled *nao-ša* in Peking had any resemblance to our sal ammoniac.

H. E. STAPLETON,[4] author of a very interesting study on the employment of sal ammoniac in ancient chemistry, has hazarded an etymological speculation as to the term *nao-ša*. Persian *nūšādur* appears to him to be the Chinese word *nau-ša*, suffixed by the Persian word *dārū* ("medicine"),[5] and the Sanskrit *navasāra* would also seem to be simply the Chinese name in a slightly altered form. H. E. Stapleton is a chemist, not a philologist; it therefore suffices to say that these speculations, as well as his opinion "that the syllables *nau-ša* appear to be capable of complete analysis into Chinese roots,"[6] are impossible.

The Hindustānī name can by no means come into question as the prototype of the Chinese term, as proposed by F. P. SMITH[7] and T. WATTERS;[8] for the Chinese transcription was framed as early as the sixth century A.D., when Hindustānī was not yet in existence. The Hindustānī is simply a Persian loan-word of recent date, as is likewise Neo-Sanskrit *naiçadala;* while Sanskrit *navasāra*, *navasādara*, or *narasāra*, the vacillating spelling of which betrays the character of a loan-word, is traceable to a more ancient Iranian form (see below).

In the *Sui šu*[9] we meet the term in the form 鐃沙 *nao-ša*, stated to

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[1] See also *Pen ts'ao yen i*, Ch. 6, p. 4 b (ed. of Lu Sin-yüan).

[2] Science Papers, pp. 217, 276.

[3] Mémoires concernant les Chinois, Vol. XI, 1786, p. 330.

[4] Sal Ammoniac: a Study in Primitive Chemistry (*Memoirs As. Soc. Bengal*, Vol. I, 1905, pp. 40–41).

[5] He starts from the popular etymology *nūš dārū* ("life-giving medicine"), which, of course, is not to be taken seriously.

[6] Even if this were the case, it would not tend to prove that the word is of Chinese origin. As is now known to every one, there is nothing easier to the Chinese than to transcribe a foreign word and to choose such characters as will convey a certain meaning.

[7] Contributions toward the Materia Medica of China, p. 190.

[8] Essays on the Chinese Language, p. 350.

[9] Ch. 83, pp. 4 b and 5 b.