Red, in Dyeing, is one of the five simple or mother colours of the dyers.

Some reckon seven kinds, or calls of red: viz., scarlet-red, crimson-red, madder-red, half-grain-red, half-crimson-red, lively orange-red, and scarlet of cochineal. But they may be all reduced to three, according to the three principal drugs which give the colours; which are kermes, cochineal, and madder.

The fine scarlet, called scarlet of the Gaulie, is given with agaric, bran-water, wood, and scarlet grain, or kermes. Some dyers add cochineal, and others fenugreek; brightening it with bran-water, agaric, tartar, and turmeric. See Kermes and Scarlet.

Crimson-red is dyed with bran-water, tartar, and melique cochineal. See Crimson.

Madder-red is dyed with madder; to which some add realgar, or red arsenic; others, common salt, or other salts, with wheat-flour; or agaric with spirit of wine, with galls or turmeric. See Madder.

The half-grain is made with agaric and bran-water, half scarlet grain, half madder, and sometimes turmeric.

The half-crimson is made of half madder, half cochineal. As to the lively orange-red, the stuff must be first put in yellow, then in a liquor made of goat’s hair, (which has been boiled several times with madder,) dissolved over the fire with certain saline liquors, as urine, tartar, &c.

The scarlet of cochineal, or Dutch scarlet, as the French call it, is made with flax, tartar, and cochineal; after first boiling it with alum, tartar, sal gemma, and aqua fortis in which pewter has been dissolved.

Besides these seven reds, which are good and allowed colours, there is also a Brasil red; which is discouraged, as fading easily.

Of the seven good reds, only four have particular calls, or shades; the madder-red, crimson-red, lively orange-red, and scarlet of cochineal.

The calls or shades of crimson are flesh colour, peach colour, carnation roe colour, and apple-tree flower colour. Those of madder are flesh colour, onion-peel colour, and flame colour. Those of orange are the same with those of crimson. Scarlet, besides the shades of all the rest, has some peculiar to itself, as cherry colour, fire colour, &c. See Dyeing.