

An Account of some Books lately published.

I. PINAX Rerum Naturalium BRITANNIARUM continens VEGETABILIA, ANIMALIA & FOSSILIA, in hoc insula reperia, Inchoatus, Auth. Christophoro Merret, Med. D. & utriusque Societatis Regiæ socio.

The Learned and Inquisitive Author of this Book, hath by his laudable example of collecting together, what Natural things are to be found here in *England*, of all sorts (which he has done upon his own expences) given an invitation to the curious in all parts of the world to attempt the like, thereby to establish the much desired and highly useful commerce among *Naturalists*, and to contribute every where to the composing of a genuin. and full *History of Nature*.

In the *Preface* he intimates, that his stock does still encrease daily; and that therefore the Reader may expect an *Appendix* to this collection.

In the Body of the Book, he enumerates all the *Species*, Alphabetically: And, as to *Vegetables*, he reckons up about 410. sorts; and gives their *Latine* and *English* Names, and the *Places* and *Times* of their growth: reducing them afterwards to certain *Classes*, hitherto used by *Botanick* Writers in their *Histories of Plants*: Adding the *Etymology* of their *Generick* Names, and a compendious *Register* of the *Time*, when and how long the *English* Plants do shoot and flourish.

As to *Animals*, he finds of them about 340. kinds in *England*, whereof the *four-footed* are about 50. *Birds* 170. and *Fishes* 120. *Insects* are innumerable, which yet he endeavours to enumerate, and to reduce to certain *Classes*; into which he also brings the three former kinds.

Concerning *Fossils*, he first takes notice of the *Metals* found in *English* Mines; as *Silver*, *Tin*, *Copper*, *Iron*, *Lead*, *Antimony*, and some *Gold* extracted out of *Tin*. Next of the *Stones*, of which he finds about 70 sorts; & amongst them, *Bristol-Diamonds*, *Agates*, *Hyacinths*, *Emerods*, *Load-stones*, *Toad-stones* (which last yet he affirms to be nothing but the grinding-teeth of the
Fifth

Fish *Lupus*) Pearls, Corals, Marble, Alabaster, Emery: To which he adds the various kinds of Coals; as also *Bitumens*, Turfs, and Jets. And *thirdly* of the various kinds of *Allum*, *Vitriol*, *Niter*, *Sea-salt*, *Pit-salt*. But *fourthly* of the various *Earths*, of which he reckons up 15. peculiar sorts (besides those that serve for *Husbandry*, which are not easily numbered;) and amongst them *Read-lead*, *Black-lead* and *Fullers-earth*.

He concludes all with mentioning the several *Meteors* appearing in *England*; and the *Hot Springs*, and *Medical Waters*; as also, the *Salin*, *Petrifying*, and some more unusual Springs: *Item*, *Subterraneous Trees*, *Subterraneous Rivers*, *Ebbings* and *Flowings of Wells*, &c.

II. *PLACITA PHILOSOPHICA Guarini*. The chief subject of this Treatise is *Natural Philosophy*; upon many important questions whereof it enlargeth, as those of the Motion of the *Celestial Bodies*, of *Light*, of *Meteors*, and of the vital and animal functions; leaving sometimes the common opinions, and delighting in the defence of *Paradoxes*.

E.G. That the material substantial Form, is nothing but *mera potentia*, and subsists not by it self: by which means the Author judges, he can free himself from many great difficulties touching *Generation* and *Corruption*, which do perplex the other Philosophers.

He holds *Epicycles* to be impossible, and *Excentricks*, not sufficient to explicate the motion of the Stars; but that all the irregularities of this motion may be salved by the means of certain *Spiral Lines*; largely proving this *Hypothesis*, and particularly explicating the motion of each Planet.

He denies the middle Region of the Air to be cold; and believes that cold is not necessary to condense the vapours into Water.

He admits not that received Axiome, *That the generation of one Body is the corruption of another*; maintaining that there are *Generations*, to which no corruption ever preceded; and that it may happen, that one Animal without dying may be changed into another Animal.

He alledges several reasons to evince, that the Air breathed in, enters not only into the whole capacity of the Chest, but also into the lower belly.

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He is of opinion, that the Air, which is commonly believed to corrupt easily, is incorruptible; alledging among other reasons, this for one, that experience shews, that if a Botle be exactly stop'd, there is never any mixt Body form'd in it; wherefore, *saieth he*, the Air is not corrupted there.

He maintains, that 'tis not the *Magnet* that draws the Iron, but rather the Iron that attracts the *Magnet*. To explain which he affirms, that the Load-stone spreads abroad out of it self many corpuscles, which the substance of the Iron imbibes; and that, as dry things attract those that are moist, by the same reason Iron draws the Load-stone.

He rejects the *species Intentionales*, *Vital* and *Animal* Spirits, and holds many other uncommon opinions, touching *Light*, the *Iris*, the *Flux and Re-flux of the Sea*, &c.

III. *GUSTUS ORGANUM per Laurentium Bellini novissimè deprehensum.*

This Author proposing to himself to discover both the principal *Organ* of the *Taste*, and the nature of its *object*, begins with the latter, and examines first, what is *Taste*? He judges that it is caused by nothing but Salts, which being variously figured, affects the tongue variously: alledging this for his chief reason, that the Salt which is extracted by *Chymists* out of any mixt body whateuer it be, carries away with it all its taste, and that the rest remains taste-less. He adds that the Teeth in grinding the Food, serve much to extract this Salt: And he notes by the by, that the Teeth are so necessary for preparing the aliment, that certain Animals which seem to have none, have them in their stomach; and that nature has put at the entry of the palat of those that are altogether destitute of them, certain moveable inequalities, which are to them instead of Teeth.

But then *secondly*, concerning the *Organ* of Taste, he esteems, that 'tis neither the Flesh, nor the Tongue, nor the Membrans, nor the Nerves found there, nor the Glanduls, called *Amygdaline*; but those *little eminences*, that are found upon the tongue of all Animals. To obtain which, he observes,

1. That from the middle of the Tongue to the root, as also towards the tip, there are found innumerable *little Risings* called

led *Papillares*; but that from the tip of the Tongue unto the string there is observed none at all.

2. He hath experimented, that if you put *Sal Armoniack* upon the places of the Tongue, where those *Eminencies* are not, you shall find no Taste; but that you will find it presently, as soon you put any such Salt, where they are to be met with. Ergo, saith he, those *Eminencies* are the principal Organ of Taste.

3. He assures, that with a *Microscope* may be seen in those *Risings* many little holes, at the bottom whereof there are small nerves, terminating there: But he directs, to observe this in live and healthy, not in dead or sick Animals.

Having laid down these Observations, he concludes, that the manner, after which Taste is perform'd, is this, That the particles of Salt passing through those pores, which pierce the *Papillary Eminences*, and penetrating as far as to the nerves, that meet them there, do by the means of their small points prick them; which pricking is called the *Taste*.

In the mean time he acknowledges, that before him Signior *Malpighi*, Professor at *Messina*, had made some of these discoveries.

The notice of these two last Books we owe to the *French Journal*.

Correct in Numb. 19.

Page 342. lin. 33. read *mixt Orbs* in stead of, *mixt with Orbs*.

Correct in this present Numb. 20.

Page 359. line 13. Read *Marle* for *Pearle*.

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