

other remedies those protuberances were gone, nor are there any footsteps left of the abovementioned Disease.

The *two* other Trials were made upon the *other* Sex. A married Woman of 35, and a serving Maid of 20 years of age, had been both of them from their Birth very grievously afflicted with *Epileptick* fits, so that there was little hopes left to cure them. They both underwent this operation, and there was injected into their Veins a *Laxative Rosin*, dissolved in an *Anti-Epileptical Spirit*. The *first* of these had gentle stools, some hours after the Injection, and the next day the fits recurring now and then, but much milder, are since altogether vanish'd. As for the other, *viz.* the *Maid*, she went the same day to stool four times, and several times the next; but by going into the Air, and taking cold, and not observing any diet, cast her self away.

'Tis remarkable, that it was common to all three to vomit soon after the injection, and that extreamly and frequently; the reason whereof we leave to intelligent Physicians to assign.

An Extract

Of a Letter, written from the Bermudas, giving an account of the Course of the Tides there; of Wells both salt and sweet, digg'd near the Sea; of the Whale-fishing there practis'd anew, and of such Whales as have the Sperma Ceti in them.

This Letter was written June 18. 1667. by that intelligent Gentleman Mr. Richard Norwood, living upon the place, and relating as follows.

S I R,

I Received your Letter of *October 24. 1666.* but, whereas you mention another formerly sent, that never came to my hands: Neither had I, before the receipt of yours, the least intelligence of the Institution of the *Royal Society*, founded by the King; but am very glad, that God hath put into the heart of his Majesty, to advance such a noble Design, and should rejoyce, I were able to add my Mite for the furtherance of it. As to the particulars you recommend to me, I shall answer to them, as I can, in the order I find them.

First, touching the Conjunction of *Mercury* with the *Sun*,
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which

which you say you gave me notice of in your first, not received, and which happened *Octob. 25. 1664.* I had also notice of it from Mr. *Street,* and had provided in some measure to observe it; but the sky was so overcast, that the Sun could scarce be discerned all that day.

Next, concerning the *Tides,* I have only taken a general notice of them; as, that it is high water about 7 of the clock on the *Change* day (in some Creeks an hour or two later.) The water riseth but little, as about 4 foot at a high water; but at the Spring-tides it may be a foot more. The Tides *without* are very various in their setting. Sometimes the Tide of Flood sets to the *Eastward,* sometimes to the *westward:* but in fair, calm, and settled weather, the said Tide sets from the *South-east* toward the *North-west,* as they say.

We dig *wells* of *fresh water* sometimes within 20 yards of the Sea or less, which rise and fall upon the Flood, and ebb as the Sea doth; and so do most of the Wells in the Country, though further up (as I am inform'd.) Wheresoever they dig Wells here, they dig till they come almost to a Level with the superficies of the Sea, and then they find either *fresh water* or *salt.* If it be *fresh,* yet if they dig two or three foot deeper, or often less, they come to *salt* water. If it be a sandy ground, or a sandy crumbling Stone, that the water soaks gently through, they find usually *fresh water;* but if they be hard Limestone-Rocks, which the water cannot soak through, but passeth in chinks or clefts between them, the water is salt or brackish. Yet (to mention that by the by) I never saw any Sand in the Country such as will grind Glafs, or whet Knives, &c. as in *England,* but a substance like Sand, though much softer; neither have we any *Peble-stones* or *Flint.*

For the *killing* of *whales,* it hath been formerly attempted in vain, but within these two or three years, in the Spring-time and fair weather, they take sometimes one, or two, or three in a day. They are less, I hear, than those in *Greenland,* but more quick and lively, so that if they be struck in deep water, they presently make into the deep with such violence, that the Boat is in danger to be haled down after them, if they cut not the Rope in time; therefore they usually strike them in shoal-water. They have

have very good Boats for that purpose, mann'd with six Oars, such as they can row forwards or backwards, as occasion requirerh. They row up gently to the Whale, and so he will scarcely shun them; and when the Harpineer, standing ready fitted, sees his opportunity, he strikes his Harping-Iron into the Whale about or before the Fins, rather than toward the Tail. Now the Harping-Irons are like those, which are usual in *England* in striking Porpoises; but singular good metal, that will not break, but wind, as they say, about a man's hand. To the Harping-Irons is made fast a strong lythe Rope, and into the Socket of that Iron is put a Staff, which, when the Whale is struck, comes out of the Socket; and so when the Whale is something quiet, they hale up to him by the Rope, and, it may be, strike into him another Harping-Iron, or lance him with Lances in staves, till they have kill'd him. This I write by relation, for I have not seen any kill'd my self. I hear not, that they have found any *Sperma Ceti* in any of these Whales; but I have heard from credible persons, that there is a kind of such as have the *Sperma* at *Elutheria*, and others of the *Bahama* Islands (where also they find often quantities of *Amber-greece*) and that those have great Teeth (which ours have not) and are very sinewy. One of this place (*John Perinchief*) found one there dead, driven upon an Island, and, though I think ignorant in the business, yet got a great quantity of *Sperma Ceti* out of it. It seems, they have not much Oyl, as ours, but this Oyl, I hear, is at first like *Sperma Ceti*; but they clarifie it, I think, by the fire. When I speak with him (whom I could not meet with at present, and now the Ship is ready to set sail) I shall endeavour to be further informed; but at present with the tender of my humbly service to the *Royal Society*, and commending your Noble Design to the blessing of the Almighty, I take my leave, &c.