

instituendo dissectiones, catellarum imprimis valde juvenum, &c. ad rei certitudinem majorem.

Seaventhly, from Germany we are inform'd, that in the Univerfity of Jena in Upper Saxony, one Mr. Weighelins, Profeflor of the Mathematicks there, hath invented feveral ingenious Inſtruments and Engins; As firſt, an Aſtronomical one, which he calls *Aſtrodidacticum*, by the means whereof very many perſons ſhall be able at one and the ſame time to behold one and the ſame Star. Secondly, An exceeding great *Globe* of the *World*, capable of ten perſons to fit in it all at once, and to behold the motions of the celeftial Bodies, &c. Thirdly, An *odd Bridge*, or a kind of Stairs, by which a man ſhall deſcend and yet really be raiſed upward, and going as 'twere upon a plain ſhall, from a lower, by gently ſubſiding, arrive to an upper ſtory, &c. Of theſe and other particulars, ſaid to be in part already done, and in part deſign'd by the ſaid Mathematician, we hope we ſhall in time obtain a more ſatisfactory account.

The Extract of a Letter written by Mr. John Ray to the Publiſher from Middleton, July 3. 1671. concerning Spontaneous Generation; As alſo ſome Inſects (melling of Muſk)

Sir,

AS to the particulars contain'd in your Letter, I well remember, that Mr. Liſter did, a good while ſince, write me his opinion concerning *Vegetable Excreſcences*, and the Inſect therein bred and harboured; but the Letter containing that Diſcourſe I have not at preſent by me, it being ſent away in a bundle of other Letters and papers into *Eſſex*. I have therefore written to him to deſire him, to take the pains himſelf to ſend you his thoughts upon that ſubject. *

* The Reader is like to find this Account in the *Translations* of the next Month.

Whether there be any *Spontaneous* or *Anomalous Generation* of Animals, as hath been the conſtant opinion of Naturaliſts heretofore, I think there is good reaſon to queſtion. It ſeems to me at preſent moſt probable, that there

there is no such thing ; but that even all Insects are the natural issue of parents of the same *species* with themselves.

F. Redi hath gone a good way in proving this, having cleared the point concerning generation *ex materia putrida*. * But still there remain two great difficulties.

* Of this Author an Account was given in *Numb.* 66. p. 2436.

The *first* is, to give an account of the production of Insects bred in the By-fruits and Excrescencies of Vegetables, which the said *Redi* doubts not to ascribe to the Vegetative Soul of the Plant that yields those Excrescencies. But for this I refer you to Mr. *Lister*. The *second*, to render an account of Insects bred in the Bodies of other animals. I hope shortly to be able to give you an account of the Generation of some of those Insects, which have been thought to be *spontaneous*, and vvhich seem as unlikely as any to be after the Ordinary and Usual vvvay.

Of such an Insect, as you mention, feeding upon *Ranunculus*, vvhich vvhhen dried yields a Musky scent, I have no knowledge. I can at present call to mind but two sorts of Insects that I have seen, which smel of Musk. The *one* is like the common *Capricornus* or *Goat-chaffer*, which is mention'd by all Naturalists that vvvrite of Insects, and vvhich smels so strong of that perfume, that you may scent it at a good distance as it flies by, or sits near you. The *other* is a small sort of *Bee*, vvhich in the South and East-parts of *England* is frequently to be met wvithal in Gardens among flowers in Spring-time. I remember, they vvere very plentiful in Sir *Edw. Duke's Tulip-Garden*, vvhhen the Tulips flowred. Sir *Edward* is now dead ; his house was not far from *Saxmundham* in *Suffolk* ; the name of the Parish I have forgot.

I have by me the Description and Anatomy of a *Porpe/s*

(vvhich fish I happily met vvvithal at *West Chester*) in vvhich there are some particulars, that I find not in the Descriptions of *Rondeletius* or others, which, if you please, I shall

* When this shall come to hand, we intend to communicate it to the Curious, the ingenious Author permitting it.

send you *. I rest, &c.