

# PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

Monday, July 13. 1668.

## The Contents.

*Other Observations, made in the formerly mention'd Voyage to Jamaica. A curious Relation of a Sand-Floud, which hath of late years overwhelmed a great Tract of Land in the County of Suffolk; together with some Observations concerning Agriculture. An Extract of a Letter, touching the present Declination of the Magnetick Needle, and the Tydes. Two Extracts of Letters, concerning an Opticall Experiment, conducive to a decay'd sight, together with some Notes, referring to the Observations about a Blemish in Horse-eyes, publisht Numb. 32. A Remarque touching the greater Antiquity of the Transfusion, than hitherto hath been taken notice of here. Mr. Gregories Answer to Mr. Hugenius's Animadversions on his Treatise De Vera Circuli & Hyperboles Quadratura. An Account of four Books: I. DISCOURS PHYSIQUE dela PAROLE. II. De INFINITIS SPIRALIBUS INVERSIS INFINITISque HYPERBOLIS, ac aliis Geometricis. III. EXERCITATIO GEOMETRICA de MAXIMIS & MINIMIS. IV. LA VENERIE ROYALE.*

### The Remainder

*Of the Observations made in the formerly mention'd Voyage to Jamaica, publisht Numb. 36.*

**B**Efore we proceed to the rest of these *Observations*, it ought not to be pass'd by, what the Learn'd Author of them takes notice of, as done by the *Publisher* in the *first* part of the same, printed in the Year 1667. in *September* (*viz.* *Numb. 27. p. 498.*) where the said *Publisher* takes the liberty to

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offer a reason, opposite to his of *Similar Attraction* : which this *Observer* in his *Second Letter* thinks not so fair, except the other instances, he mentioned, had been refuted.

To which 'tis thought there needs no more to be said, to satisfie the *Observer*, than that the *Publisher* did not at all obtrude another reason of the Effect, there spoken of, but very modestly (as he conceives) and with an expression implying doubt, suggested only his thoughts, which then occur'd to him; being so unconcern'd herein, that, to shew on this occasion his averfeness from disputing, he altogether leaves it to the *Reader* to judge, whether *Similar Attraction*, or *Pulsion* and *Weight* be the more Philosophical account of the *Phænomenon* there discoursed of: In reference to which, this curious Traveller farther observes;

That the *Sea-brise* comes not into *Jamaica* till 8 or 9 of the clock in the morning, and ordinarily ceaseth about 4 or 5 at night. Where yet he adds, that he hath known a *Sea-brise* blow in the Winter-months 14 days and nights together; and that then no Clouds gather, but Dews fall: But if a *North-wind* blow, (which sometimes in the Winter-months lasts as long) that then no Dew falls, nor Clouds gather. The Clouds (he saith) begin to gather about 2 or 3 of the clock in the afternoon at the Mountains, and do not embody first in the Air, and after settle there, but settle first, and embody there; the rest of the Skie being clear till Sun-set; so that they do not pass near the Earth in a body, and only stop where they meet with parts of the Earth elevated above the rest; but precipitate from a very great height, and in particles of an exceeding rarified nature, so as not to obscure the Air or Sky at all; that great variety of beautiful Colours in the Canopy of Heaven, being raised to a much greater distance than 'tis here.

*Next* (to do the *Observer* farther right) he desires that what is said *Numb. 27. p. 497.* of having sail'd in the Latitude of *Barbados* for two days, may be read for some days, he having kept no exact *Journal*, and believing it was more days. And *p. 498.* he suggests, that for *J. Hawkins* it should be read Sir *Richard Hawkins* in his observ. *Seet. 12.*

*Thirdly*, he takes notice, that he could not learn, how the *Tor-*  
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*toises* do, when they sleep on the top of the Sea; for they float asleep (*saith he*) in a calm day a long time, so that the Sea-men hoise out their Boats and row gently to them, and either strike them with irons, or ensnare their Legs with a Rope and a running Net, and so take them. He doth not remember any *Swine* or Bladder in them, than what contains their Urine.

*Fourthly*, he observés of the *Purging-nuts* (of whom so much is said by Authors, as *Ligon*, *Piso*, *Simon Pauli*, &c.) that he could never adjust the Dose, having given from 3 to 60, without any effect in the same person, so that he never durst rely on them; yet *he adds*, that they often do work as is related

*Fifthly*, he notes, that he never saw any good effect of the most innocent *Purge* during his stay in the *Indies*, except in Chronical distempers; nor did he ever almost give any, after frequent tryals had made him cautious, but *Pills* that were *Antimonial*, or *Mercurius vite*, or *Vomitive* Infusions.

*Sixthly*, he relates, that inquiring at the *Barbadoes* of the Doctors and Chirurgions there, about the use of *Opium*, so much magnified by *Bontius* and *Piso*, he heard them all condemn it, as most stupifying and mortal; and found, that they us'd the *London-Laudanum*, which he observ'd to be very *narcotique*, the *Opium* being extracted with *Spirit of Wine*. But he saith, he had a *Laudanum* of Monsieur *Le Fevre*, call'd *Laudanum Simplex*, of torrefied *Opium*, extracted with *distill'd Vineger* and some other Correctives, which *he affirms* never stupifies, no, nor inclines to sleep after 'tis taken, yet immediately easeth all pain. He adds, that he used the *London-Laudanum* several times, and found two grains to stupifie so, that those who took it, were almost senseless for two days, even when it was mixt with purging Pills in the *Colick*; but that other never rendred them sleepy; and if they fell asleep, and he awaken'd them presently after, he found them as intelligent, as if they had taken nothing of *Opium*. To which he subjoyns, that he took it himself for 14 weeks every night in the *Blious Colick*, where it immediately ceas'd his pains, but perhaps he slept not till two or three hours after; taking it with so much security, that he very seldom weigh'd it, but guess'd at a Pill of two or three, or (as he found his mistake sometimes, when he weigh'd it out of curiosity) even four *grains*.

Nor hath this *Laudanum Simplex* (by his observation) only this effect in the *Indies*, where he saith, he used it in all cases to all ages, even sucking *Children*, but that even here in *England* he gave it not long ago to a Lady in the *Colique bilious*, never weighing it, and it eas'd her pains, yet did she never apprehend, that she had taken any such thing, and all the night, if any did but stirre, she could hear them as perfectly, as ever she could when she slept naturally.

*Seventhly*, he takes notice, that the Observation, which *Ovi-edo* hath about *Lice*, which is, that they leave the *Spaniards* as they go to the *Indies* in such a degree, and meet them again in the same *Latitude* in their return, is very true. For though the ships, they went in, with such a multitude of Servants and Seamen, were not over-cleanly, yet (as he remembers) before they came to the *Tropick*, there were none *Lowfie*; whereas before, one could not walk amongst them, but his cloaths would gather *Lice*. In the *Indies* (saith he) none are *Lowfie*, how nasty soever, except it be in their heads; and there they breed much: but he could never hear of the most nasty, that ever they had them in their shirts or cloaths. And in their return home he did observe, that they did multiply again, after they came to about the *Latitude* of the *Maderas*. Discouising with his Captain and others about the reason of it, the Ingenious Sir *Christopher Mings*, one of the most observing persons in the World, said, that when they approach the *Long-reach* and *Tropick*, they begin to sweat excessively, which sweat abounding over the body, chokes the old *Lice* and kills them: Just thus, he said, it was an usual remedy for lowzy heads, to rubb them all over with *Butter* or *Oyl*, and he would warrant, it would kill all the *Lice*. And as for any new generation, the sweat not lodging in the pores long enough, it was not disposed to produce these vermine at all; for no sweat in the *Indy's* is rank, as in *Europe*, that ever he could observe. In their return, the sweat lodgeth longer in the pores and habit of the body, and the particular *forms* or *ferments*, being exalted and unloosen'd, and put into activity, shape out those creatures, and so they breed them. But if you ask, why they breed in the *Head* in the *Indies*; He answers, that though our faces sweat much, yet doth not our hair so much: besides that  
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the sweat is lodg'd in the hair, and there breeds the vermine, and they take not the care of their heads there as here. However, the *Spanish Negroes* wash their heads with soap once a week to prevent being lowsie; whilst the other *Negroes* loose a great deal of time in looking after their heads, which by reason of their curls breed Lice more than the *English*; insomuch, that he affirms to have seen great holes eaten by Lice in the heads of some of them that were lazy.

*Eighthly*, He relates, that in the *Colick bilious* they often used Clysters of *Tobacco smoak*, but with no success at all. That he gave the juyce of *Tobacco*, an ounce in a *Clyster*, which stupified extreemly, but did no other good, than for the present to render them insensible of their pain. He adds, that 'tis usual to give Clysters of a pint of *Brandy* there, which will make them as drunk and mad as if they had taken it at their mouth. He observ'd, that less *Brandy* would foxe them in a *Clyster* then if drunk by them. He tryed a quarter of a pint in a *Clyster* on himselfe, and it made him not dead drunk, but raging mad, (though mixt with other things) and he saith, he remembers still, how unruly he was, so as not to be held in bed, his reason being depraved by these fumes. So he never took more of that *Clyster* but once, to reiterate the experiment, the effect being the same. But he complied with the *Spanish Negroes*, who to *nourish* him, gave him a *Clyster* of halfe a pint of *Madera-Sack*, the yolk of one Egg, and a little *Pepper*, warm'd and given at night, and to hold it in all night: which did gently warm his bowels, and cast him always into a gentle sleep and sweat for some hours. He saith, he took many of these in the day time, the effect ceasing after two or three hours.

*Lastly*, He takes notice of the censure of *Simon Pauli* in his *Herbal* p. 383. against *Chocolata*, and saith, he cannot forgive him for it; being of opinion, that that *Liquor*, if it were well made and taken in a right way, is the best Diet for *Hypochondriaks* and *Chronical distempers*, and the *Scurvy*, *Gout* and *Stone*, and *Women lying in*, and *Children new-born* (to prevent *Convulsions*, and purge the *Meconium* out) and many other distempers, that ever came into *Europe*; but that 'tis now rather used for *Luxury* then *Physick*, and so compounded, as to destroy the *Stomack*,

mack, and to encrease Hypochondriacal diseases, and so cook'd now, as if it wereto be trans'form'd into a Caudle or Custard.

*A curious and exact Relation*

*Of a Sand-floud, which hath lately overwhelmed a great tract of Land in the County of Suffolks; together with an account of the Check in part given to it; Communicated in an obliging Letter to the Publisher, by that Worthy Gentleman Thomas Wright Esquire, living upon the place, and a sufferer by that Deluge.*

SIR, I beg your pardon, that I have not made an earlier return to the Letter, by giving you the account, you required of those prodigious *Sands*, which I have the unhappines to be almost buried in, and by which a considerable part of my small fortune is quite swallow'd up. But I assure you, my silence was not the result of any neglect, but rather of my respects to you, whose employments I know are too great to suffer you often, *vacare nugis*. The truth is, I suspended the giving you any trouble, till I was put into some capacity of answering the whole Letter, as well concerning those few Improvements, this part of the Nation has made in *Agriculture*, as these wonderful *Sands*, which although they inhabit with and upon me, and have not yet exceeded one *Century*, since they first broke prison, I could not without some difficulty trace to their Original. But I now find it to be in a *Warren* in *Lakenheath* (a Town belonging to the *Dean and Chapter* of *Ely*, distant not above 5 miles, and lying *South-west* and by *West* of this place) where some great Sand-hills (whereof there is still a remainder) having the *Superficies*, or sword of the ground (as we call it) broken by the impetuous *South-west* winds, blew upon some of the adjacent grounds; which being much of the same nature, and having nothing but a thin crust of barren earth to secure its good behaviour, was soon rotted and dissolved by the other Sand, and thereby easily fitted to increase the Mass, and to bear it company in this strange progress.

At the first Eruption thereof (which does not much exceed the memories of some persons still living) I suppose, the whole Magazin of Sand could not cover above 8, or 10 acres of ground, which increas'd into a 1000 acres, before the Sand had travail'd