

A Confirmation of what was formerly Printed in Numb. 50. of these Tracts, about the manner of Spiders projecting their Threads; communicated by Mr. John Wray, to the Publisher.

Concerning the manner of Spiders projecting their threads, I received the following account from Dr. *Huſe*, from whom (to do him right) I muſt acknowledge, I had the firſt notice of this particular, which was not long after communicated to me by another Ingenious Friend, whoſe Letter I formerly ſent you to be imparted to the *R. Society*. Nor is it any great wonder, that Inquiſitive perſons, applying themſelves to obſerve and conſider the ſame ſubjects, ſhould make the ſame discoveries.

I have (*ſaith he*) ſeen them ſhoot their webbs three yards long before they begin to ſayl; and then they will (as it were) fly away incredibly ſwift. Which *Phænomenon* doth ſomewhat puzzle me, ſeeing oftentimes the Air doth not move a quarter ſo faſt as they ſeem to fly. Moſtly they project their threads ſingle, without dividing: or forking at all to be ſeen in them: Sometimes they will ſhoot the thread upward, and will mount up with it in a line almoſt perpendicular; and at other times, they project it in a line parallel to the plain of the Horizon; as you may often ſee by their threads that run from one tree to another; and likewise in Chambers from one wall to another. I confeſs, this Obſervation at firſt made me think, that they could fly, becauſe I could not conceive, how a thread could be drawn ſo parallel to the Horizon between two Walls or Trees, as above-ſaid, unleſs the Spider flew through the Air in a ſtraight line. The way of forking their threads is expreſſed by the following Figure. (See *Tab. 2. Fig. VII.*) What reaſon ſhould be given of this dividing, I know not, except that their threads being thus winged, become better able to ſuſtain them in the Air.

They

They will often fasten their threads in several places to the things, they creep upon: The manner is, by beating their tayles against them as they creep along; which may be understood by this line. See *Tab. 2. Fig. VIII.* By this frequent beating in of their thread among the asperities of the place, where they creep, they either secure it against the wind, that it be not easily blown away; or else, whilst they hang by it, if one stick breaks, another holds fast; so that they do not fall to the ground.

A Note Concerning the next foregoing Relation.

After we had received the precedent Confirmation touching the *first* observer of the *Darting of Spiders*, there came to hand a Letter from that Inquisitive Gentleman, *Mr. Martin Lister*, intimating, That if we were not yet fully satisfied about that matter, he had this further to say; that *Mr. Wray* knew nothing of his knowing it, no more than he (*Mr. Lister*) knew, that either he or any body else knew it, untill such time, as he occasionally sent him a Catalogue of our English Spiders: Upon which subject, in the next Letter, *Mr. Wray* put this among other questions to *Mr. Lister*, whether he had observed the *Darting of Spiders*: To which he answer'd in the affirmative, relating to him many other circumstances not observed by him before, so that he was desired by *M. Wray*, to draw up his notes, and suffer him to present them to the *R. Society*: which he did. After which, the said Notes were also publish'd, in *Numb. 50.* of these Books.

Whence it appears, that this Observation is as well *Mr. Listers*, as *Dr. Hulse's* (as is also acknowledged in the beginning of the precedent Account;) though it be true also, that when it was written and sent by the former of those two Gentlemen, it was not then a thing altogether unknown to *Mr. Wray*, but confirmed and enlarged by *Mr. Listers* own Obser-

Observations. Which was thought fit to add here, that nothing might be detracted from Mr. *Lifter* for permitting his Notes in the lately mention'd Tract to be published as his own, which really they are.

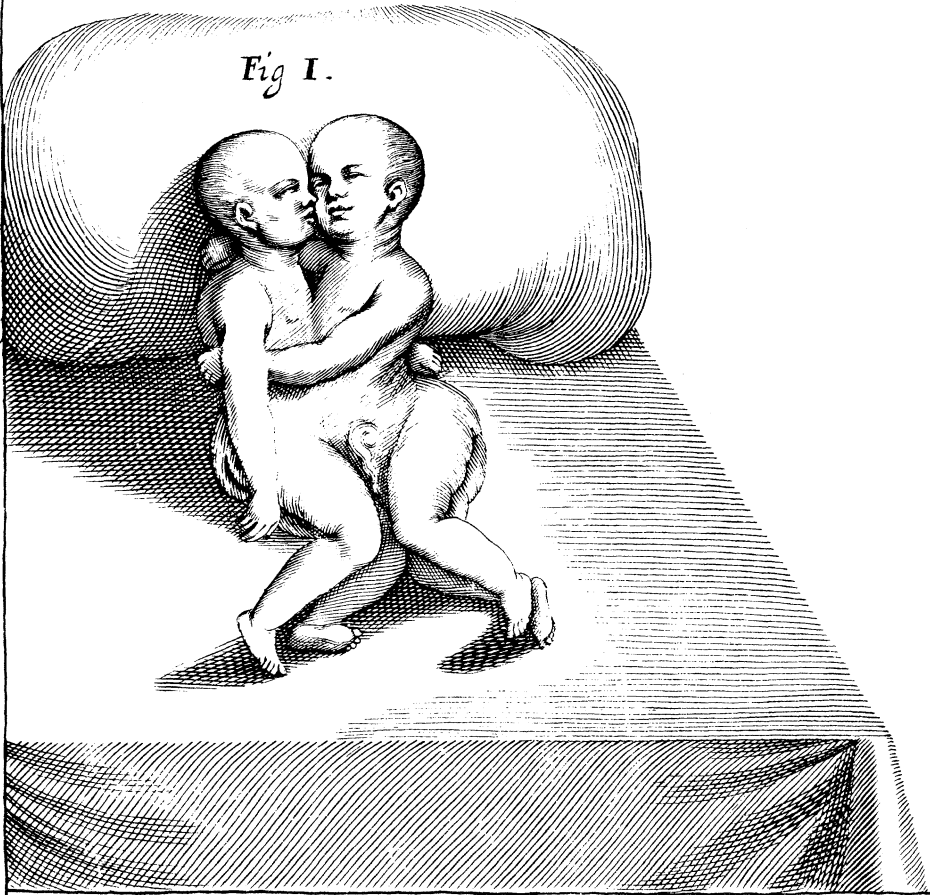
An Account of some Books.

I. DE CORPORUM AFFECTIONIBUS cum MANIFESTIS tum OCCULTIS, Libri Duo : Seu Promotæ per Experimenta Philosophiæ Specimen, Auth. J. B. Du Hamel, Ecclesiæ Bajocensis Cancellario, Parisiis, 1670. in 12°.

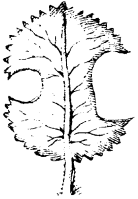
THe Learned Author of this Treatise having represented in the *Preface*, that the *Grecian* Philosophy concerning Nature, hath been so far from being able to grow up any thing considerably, that by the more Generous and the more Intelligent men of this Age, it is esteem'd rather to have degenerated and decayed ; giveth here a *Specimen* of Natural Philosophy improved and advanced by Observations and Experiments ; not only endeavouring to explicate, from the Principles of the Modern Philosophers, the Qualities and Powers of Bodies, but also giving an Account of the more notable Experiments, made in this Age in divers places, as *England, France, Italy, Germany, &c.* In the Performance of which he treats,

In his *First* Book, of the Origine and Nature of Qualities in General ; then, of Heat and Cold ; of Fluidity and Firmness and other Tactile Qualities ; of Tasts, Smells, Sounds, Light, and Colours. In the *Second*, Of Medicaments in General ; then, of the Vertue and Use of Preparing, Alterative, Purgative, and Topical Medicines ; as also of Poysons and Antidotes. In the same, he proceeds to consider Magnetisme, Electricity, Gravity in general, and the Accelerated motion of Heavy Bodies : Concluding the whole with the consideration of Librated Liquors, and the Weight of the Air.

Fig I.



II



III



IV



V



VI



VII



VIII

