

*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 firft, an *Aftro-nomical* one, which he calls *Aftrodifticum*, by the means whereof very many perfons fhall be able at one and the fame time to behold one and the fame *Star*. Secondly, An exceeding great *Globe* of the *World*, capable of ten perfons to fit in it all at once, and to behold the motions of the *celestial Bodies*, &c. Thirdly, An *odd Bridge*, or a kind of *Stairs*, by which a man fhall defcend and yet really be raifed upward, and going as 'twere upon a plain fhall, from a lower, by gently fubfiding, arrive to an upper ftory, &c. Of thefe and other particulars, faid to be in part already done, and in part defign'd by the faid *Mathematician*, we hope we fhall in time obtain a more fatisfactory account.

*The Extract of a Letter written by Mr. John Ray to the Publisher from Midleton, July 3. 1671. concerning Spontaneous Generation; As alfo fome Insects (melling of Musks)*

Sir,

AS to the particulars contain'd in your Letter, I well remember, that Mr. *Lifter* did, a good while fince, write me his opinion concerning *Vegetable Excrefcences*, and the *Infects* therein bred and harboured; but the Letter containing that *Discourfe* I have not at prefent by me, it being fent away in a *band'e* of other Letters and papers into *Essex*. I have therefore written to him to defire him, to take the pains himfelf to fend you his thoughts upon that fubject. \*

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

Whether there be any *Spontaneous* or *Anomalous Generation* of *Animals*, as hath been the constant opinion of *Naturalifts* heretofore, I think there is good reafon to queftion. It feems to me at prefent moft 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 vvhay.

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 vvhrite 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 withal 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 vvhithal 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.