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III. Some Conjectures concerning the Position of the Colure in the ancient Sphere; communicated in a Letter from the Rev^d Ebenezer Latham, M. D. and V. D. M. to Dr. Mortimer, Secr. R. S.

SIR,

Have an Opportunity of transmiting to you a Draught of the Constellation Aries, as it was exactly copied by Dr. White, from a Book in the fine Library of your learned Uncle Samuel Sanders, Esq; a worthy Member of the ROYAL SOCIETY. I do not know whether it may not be esteemed of some Moment towards the determining the famous Controversy with respect to Sir Isaac Newton's Chronology. Dr. Halley observes *, "That the Dispute is chiefly, Over what Part of the " Back of Aries the Colure passed. Sir Isaac Newton " takes it to be over the Middle of the Constellation; " P. Souciet will have it, that it passed over the Mid-" dle of the Dodecatemorion of Aries, which by " Consequence would make it pass about Mid-way " between the Rump and First of the Tail;" which Situation could never be faid to be over the Back: Whereas, if the Ring in this Cut [fee in the TAB. Fig. 1.] was designed, as I apprehend, to image the

Colure

^{*} Philosophical Transactions, No 397.

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Colure in the ancient Sphere, it exactly answers Hipparchus's Description— εν δὶ τῷ ἐτέρω κολέρω φησὶ κῶς τὰ κριὰ τὰ νῶτα κατὰ πλάτ. and justifies the Construction Sir Isaac put on those Words beyond Exception. The Sculptures from whence this was taken, have the Title of Arataa, sive Signa Calestia, in quibus Astronomica Speculationes Veterum ad Archetypa vetustissimi Arataorum Casaris Germanici Codicis (44) ob oculos ponuntur a Jacobo de Geyn ex Biblioth. Acad. Lugd. Bat. Amstel. 1652.*

As I have no Opportunity to consult the Original, it might give more Weight to the Account, if the Connoisseurs of your learned Society could support the Engraver's Testimony as to the great Antiquity of that. I will only beg Leave to observe farther, that as this Catalogue begins with the Draco, which the Ancients feem to place at the Head of their Constellations; perhaps it may give some Light into the Time of the Book of Job, as well as into the Sense of that Place. For when he fays, Chap. xxvi. 13. By his Spirit he has garnished the Heavens; his Hand has formed the crooked Serpent; I submit it to the Judgment of the Critics, whether it is not highly probable the Writer must have lived within that Period of Time wherein a Star of that Constellation might pass for the Polar Star: And then, if the Asterisms are supposed to be placed in some such Order as here, the express Mention that he only makes

^{. *} Hug. Grotii Batavi Syntagma Arateorum: ex offic. Plantin. 4to. See Germanicus's Interpretation, p. 35. the Figure of the Confellation Aries.

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of this, was sufficient to refer us to the whole System or Furniture of the Heavens. But I am afraid I become tedious. I am

Your Illustrious Society's,

and your most obedient,

bumble Servant,

Findern, July 8. 1742.

E. Latham.

IV. The Case of an Extraordinary Dropsy, communicated in a Letter from Tho. Short, M. D. to C. Mortimer, M. D. Sec. R. S.

Sheffield, Aug. 2. 1742.

HE following Case being some-SIR1742. what uncommon, perhaps it may not be wholly unworthy of your Notice. Last January I was called to visit a young Woman of Thirty Years of Age, who about Seven Years ago, had like a severe Fit of the Stone in her Left Kidney, with all the common Symptoms of a Stone, but by some Means recovered again. Three Years ago she had another Fit, but got better in a few Days; though she mostly complained of a dull Pain in that Place ever When I saw her, I found her Menses had been very irregular and small since her last Paroxysm, and totally obstructed since September; her Pulse very small and quick, her Countenance pale and languid; a Pain at the Pit of her Stomach, towards the

