

II. *An Observation of a Spina bifida, commonly so termed; by Mr. George Aylett, Surgeon at Windsor.*

September 30. 1740.

Read Feb. 2.
1743-4.

THERE appeared, covering the lower Part of the Loins of a lusty Infant just born, a large incysted Tumour, that seemed capable of containing a Pint of Water, whose Contents had escaped in the Birth from a small Perforation in the Middle of the Cyst; from whence, on Pressure, issued out a bloody Serum.

Flannels, wrung out of an hot, discutient, and restraining Fomentation with Spirits, were twice a Day applied, to prevent its mortifying; to which the upper Part seemed greatly tending.

The first Four Days there appeared no visible Alteration in the Child's Health: She sucked well; was as hearty and strong as most at that Age are; no Paralysis in the Extremities, but a daily Discharge from the Perforation of nigh Two Ounces of the same bloody Serum which at first issued out. The Nurse had observed, that, during all this time, it had not made one Drop of Water.

The Fifth Day the Child was convulsed; which increasing, she died in the Night following.

On the Division of the Cyst, next Day, there appeared a thin membranous Substance, lining it internally; and might be an Expansion of the Membrane which envelops the *Medulla spinalis*. A Number of small Blood-vessels appeared about the Perforation

of the Bone ; and, underneath a small Portion of the *Medulla* of a very thin Consistence. There was no Opportunity of making a further Examination, thro' the Mother's Importunities : But the lumbal *Vertebrae* and *Os sacrum* were taken out, as appears in the Figure annexed.

TAB. I. Fig. 1. by C. M.

AB, The *Vertebrae* of the Loins.

BC, The *Os sacrum*.

CD, The *Ossa Coccygis*.

EF, The *spinal* Processes of the *Vertebrae* of the Loins; which Spines are here discontinued, and an Opening formed,

FGHI, quite into the Canal of the *Vertebrae*; so that the *Medulla spinalis* was intirely laid bare without any bony Covering. This Opening has been mistaken for a Parting of the *spinal* Processes into Two Rows; or as if at *F* they had divided into Two Branches; the Two Edges *F* and *G* feeling thro' the Integuments like a Bifurcation of the Spine, and so have given Rise to the Notion of a *Spina bifida*; which Case I doubt whether it ever exists: For a perfect *Spina bifida* must suppose the very Canal and *Medulla spinalis* to divide into Two Branches, the Bodies of the *Vertebrae* to become near twice as wide as usual, and the *spinal* Processes to divaricate into Two Rows or Ridges of Spines. C. M.

Dr. Ratty, late *Secr. R. S.* has communicated a Case like this. See these *Transact.* n. 366. p. 98.

The Eye-Sucker as seen by the ...

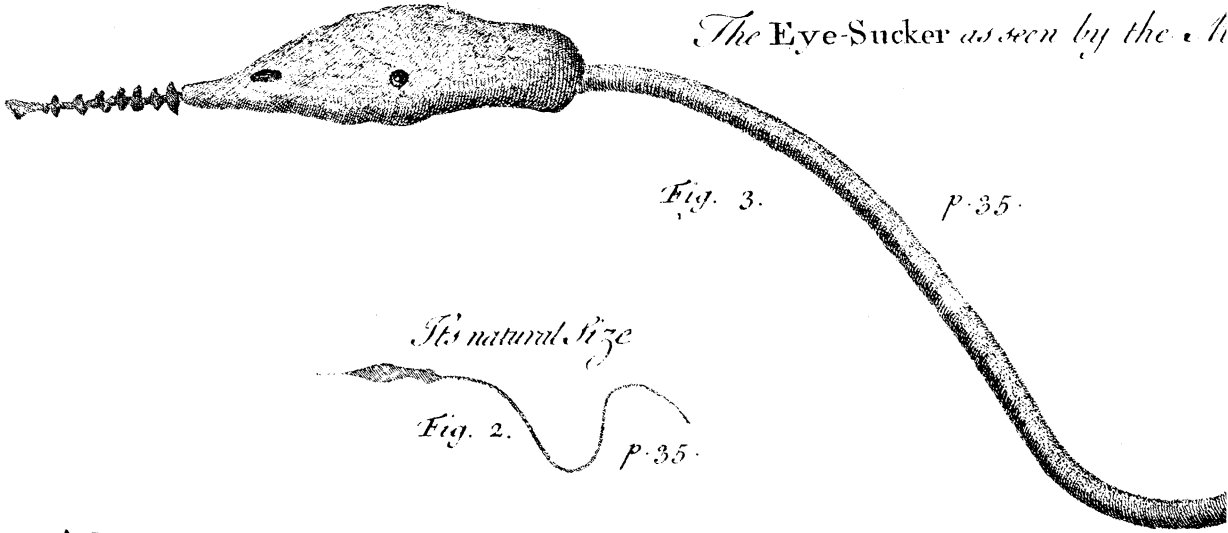


Fig. 3.

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Its natural size

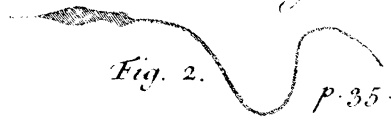


Fig. 2.

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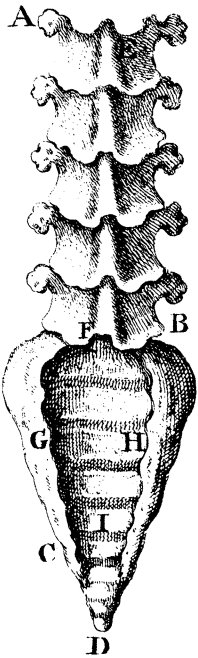


Fig. 1.
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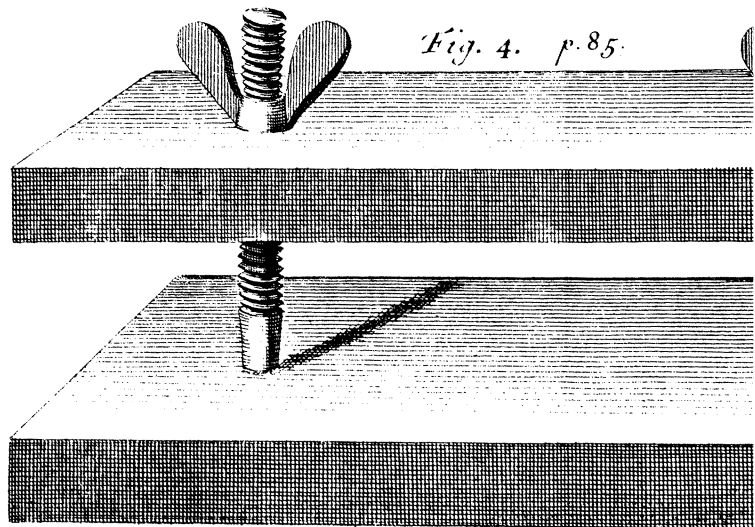
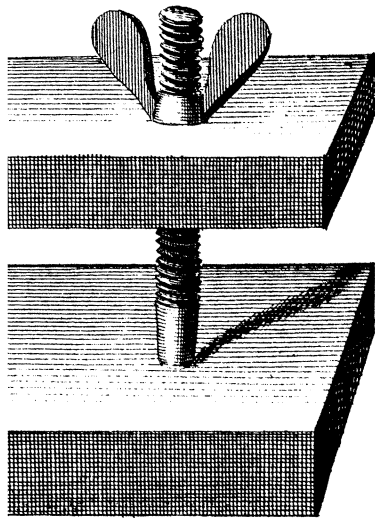
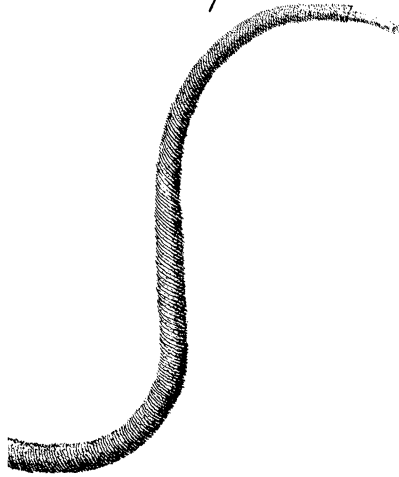


Fig. 4. *p. 85.*

the Microscope



J. Wandt jr.

The Eye-Sucker as seen by the Microscope

