

vari possit, attenderunt; animalculorum tamen vivorum in carpionis, qui nondum duas libras *Norimb.* complet femine numerus 253,906,250,000 adhuc erit major: quod certe omnem nostram imaginandi vim, minime tamen infiniti Conditoris potentiam, superat.

Sed fatis diu jam, vir doctissime, te moratus sum. Nihil ergo adjicio, quam, ut impense te rogem, ne, qua usus sum, prolixitatem inique feras, mihi vero porro favcas. Ita Vale.

*Dabam Gottingæ, in Academia Georgia Augusta,
Die 15. Octob. A. 1744.*

P. S. Ad tantam profunditatem barometrum, quætor, ordinarium, dum hæc scribo, delapsum est, ut unica modo ex scala ipsius ordinaria linea ipsi restet. Sed Auster etiam vehementissimus spirat. Hora vero noctis duodecima etiam infra hanc ultimam scalæ suæ lineam Mercurius subsedit.

II. *Some Account of the Gigantic Boy at Willingham near Cambridge.*

I. **T**HE first Notice given to the *Royal Society* of this extraordinary Child, was a Letter communicated by Mr. *Philip Miller*, F. R. S. to the *President*, inclosing one he had received from the Rev. Mr. *Almond*, Minister of the Parish; which was read at a Meeting of the *Society* on *Nov. 8.* last: At which time was likewise read a Letter from one Mr.

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Baily

Baily to *James Theobalds*, Esq; *F. R. S.* on the same Subject, and much to the same Purpose.

The following is an Extract of the Rev. Mr. *Almond's* Letter,

S I R, *Willingham, Oct. 3. 1745.*

Read Nov. 8. 1744. I TAKE the Freedom to give you an Account of a Prodigy in Nature in the Town where I dwell; leaving it to your Discretion, whether it be worth your while to give the *Royal Society* Information thereof.

A Servant, who married out of my Family, was delivered of her second Child, a Son; who, at his Birth, had something very extraordinary about him above other Infants; in particular, *in partibus generationis*; besides uncommonly large in his whole Body.

He grew to Admiration for Three-quarters of a Year, having only the Breast-Sustenance; when his Mother died suddenly; and, as is supposed, he was accessory thereunto, by drawing away her vital Nourishment.

Since her Death, he has continued growing in Proportion: And, altho' now but 2 Years and 11 Months old, is 3 Feet 9 Inches high and better; and every Part in Proportion thereunto: His Strength and Courage such as to overcome Boys of 6, 7, and 8 Years of Age: His Voice, like a Man's, very groom; Weight above Four Stone; and he appears to have as much Understanding as a Boy of 5 or 6 Years old. But, what is most surprizing, his *Penis* is Four Inches long when

when erect; the Hair on the *Pubis* an Inch long and thick. The Report of him has brought People far and near to see him.

Your obedient humble Servant,

Edmund Almond.

2. *A Letter from Mr. Tho. Dawkes, Surgeon at Huntington, to Dr. Mead, F. R. S. & Med. Reg. concerning the same Child.*

Learned Sir,

*Read Jan. 10.
1744-5.*

A *Prodigy of Nature*, hereunder exactly described, has, for some Months past, engag'd the Attention of the Curious in this Neighbourhood; and seems to demand that of that Learned and Honourable *Society*, of which you are a Member of the first Rank: And as such, tho' a Stranger to you in Person, yet I presume the following Accounts will not be altogether unacceptable to you.

At the Instance of the Midwife concerned at the Time of Labour, I went to a Village called *Willingham* alias *Wivelingham*, about Six Miles North of *Cambridge*, to see a Boy, then (the latter End of *August* last) just Two Years and Ten Months old; of whom I took, with the utmost Accuracy, the following Dimensions; *viz.*

His

	Feet.	Inches.	Tenths.
His <i>Height</i> , which was ———	3	8	5
The Measure round his <i>Neck</i> , ———	1	1	2
————— of the <i>Waist</i> ———	1	11	2
From the Head of one <i>Humerus</i> to } the other ——— ——— }	0	11	8
From the Head of the <i>Humerus</i> to } the <i>Cubit</i> ——— ——— }	0	8	2
From the <i>Cubit</i> to the <i>Extremity</i> } of the <i>Ulna</i> and <i>Radius</i> ——— }	0	6	0
The Measure round the <i>Wrist</i> ———	0	6	0
The <i>Length</i> of the <i>Thigh</i> , from the } <i>Head of the Femur</i> to the <i>Head</i> } of the <i>Tibia</i> ——— ——— }	0	10	8
The Measure round its <i>thickest</i> Part	1	2	3
From the <i>Head</i> of the <i>Tibia</i> to the } <i>Astragalus</i> ——— ——— }	0	9	1
The <i>Length</i> of the <i>Foot</i> ———	0	6	0
The <i>Breadth</i> of the same ———	0	3	3
The Measure of the <i>thickest</i> Part of } the <i>Calf</i> ——— ——— }	0	10	3
The <i>Length</i> of the <i>Penis</i> , as <i>pendent</i>	0	3	3
Its <i>Circumference</i> ———	0	2	7
The <i>Testes</i> , measured round to each } Side of the <i>Penis</i> ——— ——— }	0	5	2

His *Weight*, in his Cloaths, was Four Stone and Two Pounds.

The *Hair* of his Head is *long*, *strong*, of a *dark-brown* Colour, and displays itself, *naturally*, in fine *Curls*.

He has the distinguishing Mark of *Puberty*; for the *Lanugo* upon the *Pubes* is as *long*, as *thick*, and as *crisp*, as that of an *adult Person*.

He

He is *very strong*: I saw him take up and throw from him, with much Facility, a *Blacksmith's Hammer*, which weigh'd *Seventeen Pounds*: And when he is provok'd by other Children, (for he goes to School) he does not *fight with his Fist*, nor *Legs*, but *collars* them, and lays them prostrate by mere Strength. Thus, they tell me, he will frequently serve Boys of eight or ten Years of Age.

His Voice, in common, is *extremely manly*, as deep a Bass as you can well conceive; and he pronounces very distinctly.

He has something a little *savage* in his Look; tho', they tell me, he is not naturally quarrelsome.

He eats and drinks with great Moderation.

His Understanding seems to be equal to that of a Child of 5 or 6 Years old.

He is quick of Apprehension, and has a very retentive Memory.

He has something of a *stately Walk* with him; and seems conscious of that uncommon Share of Strength which the Author of Nature has endow'd him with.

He is not made a *public Shew* of, but walks about, and plays in common with other Children.

When I saw him, the *Glans of the Penis* was quite uncover'd; and his Aunt, and the Midwife, assured me it was always so.

His *Father* is a *little Man*, a *Labourer*: His *Mother* (who died when he was but 9 Months old; and, as was suppos'd, by *giving him Suck*; for, they tell me, she was found dead with him at her Breast) was a *Woman of a middle Stature*.

The Midwife assur'd me, That, when he was first born, he was no other than what they commonly
term,

term, a *lusty Boy*; save that the Parts of Generation were *remarkably large*, and that the *Lanugo* first appear'd when he was near a Year old; which gave great Uneasiness to his Parents, who were very religious People. I am,

Learned Sir,

Huntingdon, Jan. 4.

1744,

Your most Obedient,

Humble Servant,

Tho. Dawkes.

To a second Letter from the same were subjoined the *Affidavits* and *Testimonials* of the Midwife, the Minister, Churchwardens, and others, That this Child, *Tho. Hale*, was born on 31. *Octob.* 1741.

He was assured, by Mr. *Atmond*, That, between *Aug.* 28. and *Nov.* 30. 1744. this Child was grown two Inches and an half; *i. e.* from 3 Feet 8 Inches and 5 Tenths, to 3 Feet 11 Inches. C. M.

III. *A Letter from Mr. Browne Langrish, Licent. Coll. Med. Lond. & F. R. S. to the Rev. Dr. Hales, F. R. S. concerning a new Contrivance of applying Receivers to Retorts in Distillation.*

Dear Sir,

Read Jan. 24. 1744-5. **I** Return you my hearty Thanks for your kind Present of your Account of some Experi-