

4. The same *Malpighi* thought he should have met with the same thing in *Terrestrial* Animals; but he found, that *Fishes* alone have such a structure of the *Optique Nerve*: For that of an Ox, F ̄, and other such Animals, is nothing but a heap of many small *Fibres* of the same substance with the Brain, wrapped about with the *Dura Mater*, and accompanied with many little vessels with blood. Hence he draws the decision of that great question among Anatomists; *Whether the Optique Nerve be hollow or not?* For, *saieth he*, it cannot be otherwise, but there must be many cavities in this Nerve; forasmuch as the small filaments, of which it is composed, cannot be so closely joyned, that there should not be some void space betwixt them.

5. Concerning the *Tongue*, the same *Author* hath discovered in it many little *Eminences*, which he calls *Papillary*, and believes to be the principal Organ of *Taste*. \* But here is not to be omitted the Observation of *Fracassati*, importing, that as the *Tongue* hath towards its *point* many *Eminences*, by the means whereof it goes, as it were, to meet objects of *Taste*; so on the contrary, it hath many *cavities* towards its *root*, wherein it receives them. All which cavities terminate in *nerves*, and seem to serve for *Funnels* to convey the aliment into them. Which maketh the *Author* think it very probable, that the finest part of the aliment passeth immediately from the *Tongue* into the *Nerves*, whence it comes to pass, that Wine, being only taken into the mouth, restoreth vigour presently.

\* See Numb. 20. of the *Transactions*, pag. 366. where a large account is given of this discovery, from the Treatise of *Laur. Bellini, de Organo Gustus.*

*An Experiment of Signior Fracassati upon Blood grown cold.*

When any blood is become cold in a dish, that part which is beneath the *superficies* appears much blacker, than that on the top; and 'tis vulgarly said, that this black part of the blood is *Melancholy* blood, and men are wont to make use of this example to shew that the *Melancholy* humor as 'tis called, enters with the 3 others into the composition of the blood. But Signior *Fracassati* maintains, that this *blackish* colour comes from hence, that the blood, which is underneath, is not expos'd to the Air, and not from a mixture of *Melancholy*: to prove which he assures, that upon its being expos'd to the Air it changes colour, and becomes of a florid red.

*An Experiment as easie to try, as 'tis curious.*

SOME