

*Parenchyma* in any Muscle ; and think my time well spent in receiving a full satisfaction of the ungroundedness of my opinion ; and readily submit to the Author , with a grateful acknowledgement of my Obligation to any one , that shall rectifie me in my mistake , if it be one.

### Observables

#### Touching Petrification.

THOUGH much hath been already said and written of *Petrification* , yet 'tis conceived , that all that comes so far short of a competent stock for the composing of a perfect *History of Petrification* , that the incompleteness thereof ought to awaken the more diligent attention of the Curious , and to call in their aid for Additions , thereby so to increase and to complete the *Materials* for that work , that it may the better serve to clear and make out the Cause of that Transmutation. And that the rather, because if it lay in the power of humane Skill ( by the knowledge of *Nature's* works ) to raise *Petrification* , or to allay , or prevent it , or to order and direct it ( which perchance in time might be attained the said way ) much use might be made of this Art ; especially if it could be made applicable to hinder the Generation of the Stone and Gravel in humane Bodies , or to dissolve the Stone , where 'tis formed ; besides other valuable Uses , that might be excogitated.

Upon this Consideration , care is , and further *will be* taken in these Papers , to record , among other Observables of Nature , what shall be communicated of this kind of *Change*.

In *Numb.* 1. 2. and 5. several Relations have been made belonging to this Argument. Much of it , together with considerable Reflections may be seen in Mr. *Boyle's Essay of Firmness* : In *Helmont de Lithiasi* , where , among other remarques , is recited the Testimony of *Paracelsus* , of a *Petrified Child* seen at *Paris* , and by the Owner used for a *Whetstone* : In *Deusingius's Historia Infantis in Abdomine inventi , & in duritiem lapideam conversi* : In Mr. *Hock's Micrography* , and in others. To omit now , what has been related ( but perhaps not well enough attested ) by Authors , concerning the stupendious Petrifications of whole Companies of Men , and Troops of Cattle ; by *Aventinus* lib. 7. *Annal. Bojorum* ; by *Purchas* in his *Pilgrimage* p. 426. in fol. printed at *London* 1614. and, ( of a Troop of *Spanish* Horsemen ) by *Jos. Acosta* lib. 3. c. 9.

To all which , the Curious *Dr. Beale* now adds a Narrative of a Stone , not long since taken out of the Womb of a Woman of his neighbourhood neer *Trent* in *Somersetshire* , by incision , and afterwards perfectly cured , though she had born the Stone with extreme torments for 8. or 9. years. The operation he relates to have been made in *Easter* last ; after which time , he affirms to have seen the Stone , and weigh'd it in Gold-Scales , where it wanted somewhat of four Ounces , but had lost of the weight , it formerly had , being

being very light for a Stone of that Bulk. He further describes it to be of a whitish colour, lighter than Ash-colour; perchance (*saieth he*) not unlike to that recited out of *Scaliger* by *M. Poyle* in his *Essay of Firmness* pag 238. *qui aëris contactu postea in gypseam tum speciem tum firmitatem concreverat.* It had no deep asperities, and had somewhat of an Oval figure, out less at one end, than a Hen-Egge, and bigger and blunter at the other, than a Goose egge.

This Stone (so he concludes) is intended for the *Royal Society*, with the Testimony of the *Chirurgion*, that perform'd the Operation, and other Wirtnesses of special credit; where also will be annexed the manner of Operation.

It appears by this last clause (to add that on this occasion) that this Well-wilher to the Improvement of all usefull knowledge, has taken notice of that considerable *Collection of Curiosities*, lately presented to the lately nam'd Society for their *Repository*, by that Publick-minded Gentleman *Mr. Daniel Colwall*, a very worthy and useful Member of that Body: To which *Repository* whatsoever is presented as rare and curious, will be with great care, together with the *Donors names* and their *Benevolence* recorded, and the things preserved for After-ages, (probably much better and safer, than in their own private Cabinets;) and in progress of Time will be employed for considerable Philosophical and Usefull purposes; of which perhaps more largely in another place.

*A Relation  
Of a kind of Worms, that eat out Stones.*

This is taken out of a Letter, written by one *M. de la Voje* to *M. Auzent*, to be found in the 32. *Journal des Sçavans*; as follows.

**I**N a great and very ancient Wall of Free-Stone in the *Benedictins Abby* at *Caen* in *Normandy*, facing Southward, there are to be found many Stones so eaten by Worms, that one may run his hand into most of the Cavities; which are variously fashion'd, like the Stones, which I have seen wrought with so much Art in the *Louvre*: In these cavities there is abundance of live-Worms, their excrement, and of that Stone-dust, they eat. Between many of the Cavities there remain but leaves, as it were, of Stone, very thin, which part them. I have taken some of these living Worms, which I found in the eaten Stone, and put them into a Box with several bits of the Stone, leaving them there together for the space of eight dayes; and then opening the Box, the Stone seem'd to me eaten so sensibly, that I could no longer doubt of it. I send you the Box and the Stones in it, together with the living Worms; and to satisfy your Curiosity, I shall relate to you, what I have observed of them, both *with* and *without* a *Microscope*.