

To the 82, &c. Once melting is enough. The good melts best, and the best, first. There is sometimes half odds in the goodness. The best is distinguished by its weight.

To the 88, 89. There is a *flight* in the smoak, which falling upon the Grass, poysons those Cattel that eat of it. They find the taste of it upon their lips to be sweet, when the smoak chances to fly in their Faces. Brought home, and laid in their houses, it kills Rats and Mice. If this flight mix with the Water, in which the Oar is wash't, and be carried away into a streame, it hath poisoned such Cattel, as have drunk of it after a current of 3 Miles. What of this *flight* falls upon the sand, they gather up to melt in a Flagg-hearth, and make Shot and Sheet-lead of it.

To the 90. They sometimes find *Slaggs*, 3, 4, or 5 foot under ground, but such as they judge cast aside heretofore.

The *Promiscuous* Inquiries, annexed in the *Numb. 19*, are most of them satisfied in the former Answers.

But as to the Mineral *Laves* of *Mendip*, I am promised an Account of them, which I shall transmit to you, as soon as I have received it.

Concerning subterraneous *Demons*, they have never seen any, but sometimes have heard knockings beyond their own Works, which, when follow'd by them, have afforded plenty of Ore.

About 2 years since, one *King of Wells* in his *Groove* found a piece of Ore, in which they fancied the shape of a Man, Eyes, Armes, Leggs, full Breast: The whole was about 4 inches in length; the Mine proved rich.

An Extract of a Letter.

Written from Franckfurt in the Oder, by the learned Professor Johannes Christophorus Beckman to the Publisher, concerning *Osteocolla*, and some other *Observables* in those parts; Englished out of the High-Dutch, as follows.

Sir, the Conversation with several worthy Members of the *R. Society*, I had the honor to be admitted to, when I was in *England*, as it then awakned me, and begot in me a resolution, better

better to employ the remainder of my travelling-time, in making Observations of a Philosophical nature, so the remembrance of it, since my return into my Native Soyle, hath prompted me to enquire after, and to take special notice of the Productions of Nature there: Among which I shall at this time chiefly impart to you, what hath occur'd to me about the *Osteocolla*; which I have therefore the more carefully observ'd, because I have hitherto met in Authors with little satisfaction concerning the same.

1. Therefore, I find, that it growes in a *Sandy*, yet not *Gravelly* Soyle, and not at all (that I know) in any rich or Clayie Ground.

2. It shoots down two mens depth under ground, so that, being found above the surface of the Earth, you may still find downwards of its branches till you come to the said depth. Where it is to be noted, that the branches most commonly grow streight up, yet sometimes also spread sideways.

3. The branches are not of an equal thickness, but, like plants growing above ground, some of them thicker, some slenderer; and the farther they are distant from the common stem, the thinner they are, the stalk being thickest of all, usually equalling the thickness of an ordinary Arm or Legg, and the branches, the thickness of on's little finger.

4. The Place, where 'tis to be found, hath its peculiar mark, to find the *Osteocolla* by; which is, that upon the Sand, which is here every where yellowish, there appears a whitish fatty Sand, which, if it be dug into, hath under it a dark fatty, and, how hot and dry soever the other Sand be, a somewhat moist and putrid matter, like rotten Wood; which matter spreads it self here and there in the Earth, just as the *Osteocolla* it self doth, and is called by those, whom I have employ'd to look for it, the *Flower* of this Substance.

5. The *Osteocolla* being thus found, is altogether soft, yet rather friable than ductil: Wherefore if one hath the curiosity of getting out of the ground a whole piece of it with its branches, he must very carefully remove the Sand every way from it, and then let it lie so a while; its quality being, That remaining exposed to the Sun for half an hour or somewhat longer, it grows

growes to that hardness, as 'tis found in the shops of *Apothecaries*.

6. It seems to be a kind of *Marle*, or to have great affinity with it; of which we here also have great store, yet not near those places, where I have found *Osteocolla*.

7. It requireth also time to come to maturity; which appears from hence, that in the very same place, where I digg'd some of it the last year, I this year found others; yet with this difference, that *those* were grown hard, after the manner before described, but *these* remain still soft and friable, though now in the fifth Moneth.

8. The cause of its being divided into so many branches, I conjecture to be from the *Roots*, which spread themselves here and there in the Earth, so that the matter gathers and setleth its self about them, and afterwards according to the division of the roots, acquires a plantal form and appearance. Whence it also seems to proceed, that through the midst of the *Osteocolla* there alwayes passeth a dark line, which is thought to be a piece of the Root. And it often happens, that that stroke loseth it self by little and little, and the *Osteocolla* in the middle grows clear; which comes to passe, when the Root by the corruption, begun in the *Osteocolla*, is reduced to powder. Yet have I found a place hereabout, where the *Osteocolla* was not hollow at all; but there I observed, that in stead of setling about a big root, it had gathered it self about many small fibres; whence also this sort had acquired pores thorough its whole length, but no cavity, like the other.

On another occasion I may also communicate to you some particulars concerning the *Gramen Ischamon*, call'd by others *Gramen Dactyloides*, or *Sanguinella*; and the *Gramen Aquaticum cum longissima pannicula*, mention'd by *Bauhinus*, and growing here in great plenty; as also the Observables in the *Forest*, call'd the *Hartz*, which I intend shortly to visit, and wherein are to be found very considerable both *Copper* and *Silver-Mines*, store of *Lapis fissilis*, and a sort of stone, which by *Raine* grows altogether soft, and a place, call'd *Bawmans Hole*, like that of *Ok-hole* about *Wells* in *England*, &c.

I shall now conclude with giving you notice, that the 1. of

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March

March last, there fell an unusual sort of *Snem*, which, I considered with more than ordinary attention. It had none of the ordinary figures, but was made up of little *Pillars*, whereof some were *Tetragonal*, some *Hexagonal*, with an neat *basis*. On the top they were somewhat larger, as the heads of *Columnes* are. Considering the whole shape, we thought fit to give it the name of *Nix Columnaris*.

An Extract of a Letter lately written by an observing person to a Friend of the Publisher, concerning the vertue of Antimony.

ITried that a Boare, to whom I had given an ounce of crude Antimony at a time, putting him into the Sty, would be fat a fortnight before another, having no Antimony, upon the like feeding. Antimony will recover a Pig of the Measles; by which it appears to be a great purifyer of the Blood. I knew a Horse, that was very lean and scabbid, and could not be fatted by any keeping, to whom Antimony was given for two Moneths together every morning, and that upon the same keeping he became exceeding fat. One of my own Horses having had the fashions, and being cured, had notwithstanding extream running leggs; so that after he had passed the course of Farryers twice, to be cured, it was not done; but upon my giving him Antimony but one week, he was presently healed.

The manner of using it, is this. Take one drachme of crude Antimony powder'd for one Horse, and when you give him his Oats in a morning, shake it out upon his Oats in a little heap in the middle: If he be hungry, and you keep off his head from every other part of the Oats, he will snap it up in his mouth at one bite, when you let him goe. Some Horses greatly like it, others refuse it after the first. If he refuse it, cover it with Oats thinly; its done: or make it in Balls.