

Early Science at the Royal Society.

March 16, 1663. Sir Paul Neile presented a copy of some of Mr. Horrox's astronomical papers, which Dr. Wallis was desired to peruse, who accordingly took them with him to Oxford.—Dr. Charlton mentioning, that toads have a long bony substance in their heads, dividing the brain, best to be shewn when there are ants to eat the skulls of toads clean, he was desired to shew the observation at the proper season.

1680. The president [Sir J. Williamson] acquainted the Society, that Mr. Mercator had lately shewn the King a new way or projection of maps useful for seamen; but did not mention the particular method of it. Mr. Hooke said that Mr. Mercator had been with him to discover to him his projection; but that he was not willing to understand it from him, in order that when his own, which he had already discovered to the president, should come out, it might not be thought, that he had taken any part of Mr. Mercator's invention.

March 18, 1660.—A discourse being held concerning the water's ascending in tubes or syphons, Dr. Henshaw made several experiments in one tube with water, spirit of wine, rose-water, spirit of salt, and spirit of vitriol.

1662. Mr. Oldenburg acquainted the society with a letter sent from a Somersetshire gentleman; wherein was proposed a way of preventing famine by dispersing potatoes throughout all parts of England. A committee was appointed to consider of all the particulars, and to make a report, who were to meet at Mr. Howard's lodgings in Arundel-house.

March 19, 1661.—Mr. Evelyn brought in a paper containing an account of three pots with earth in them, wherein he had sowed several sorts of seeds for the farther trial of the increase and weight.

1673. Mr. Oldenburg read a letter from A. Mullerius at Berlin containing an offer of an anonymous person, of furnishing a key of the Chinese language, for a recompence. It was ordered that the writer be desired to send a specimen of his performance by means of this invention.

March 20, 1660.—The amanuensis was ordered to make the experiment of the calcination of antimony, whether it increaseth or not; and to weigh it before and after, in and out of the water.

1677. It was desired by the Society, that as many books, as could be procured of [by] Roger Bacon, should be perused; and it was wished, that they were all collected and printed, as being supposed to contain very many curious and useful matters. Dr. Gale affirmed that he had collected as many of the works of this author as he could. That the King had a book of Roger Bacon called the *Opus Majus*: and that his book of the prolongation of life which was supposed to be lost was affirmed by Dr. Plot to be in the Bodleian Library. Dr. Plot mentioned that there was one book of Roger Bacon in the library of University-College at Oxford, which he thought to be no where else in the world.

March 21, 1667. Mr. Hooke reported that the air had lately been so thick about London that he had not been able to see [certain] stars.

1671. Mr. Boyle communicated an account of nineteen observations made by himself on shining flesh, both veal and pullet, especially the former, in one piece of which he had reckoned above twenty several places, which all shone more or less, without finding by the smell the least degree of stink, whence to infer any putrefaction.

March 22, 1664. Mr. Pepys was desired to procure the journals of those masters of ships, who had been

with Major Holmes in Guinea and differed from him in the relation concerning the pendulum watches.

March 23, 1663. It was ordered that Sir Robert Moray and Sir Paul Neile be desired to consult with the lord Ashley, whether it may be fit to desire the King to give a rule to the two secretaries of state, that all the proposals, that shall be made concerning mechanical inventions, be referred to the Council of the Royal Society, to be examined by them, as to their novelty, reality and usefulness.

1670. Mention being again made of Mr. Cock's readiness to make a great burning concave, it was suggested that the King might be moved to command it to be made.

1686. It was the opinion of the members present that the protrusion of mountains by subterraneous fire or otherwise may occasion some alteration of the poles of the earth as well as the accession of new matter.

March 24, 1685. A letter of Mr. St. George Ash, written by order of the Dublin Society was read, wherein they desired to continue their correspondence with the Royal Society, and promised to send an account of several curiosities then before them; and mentioned particularly a girl of eleven years of age, prodigiously skilful in most parts of mathematics, having been examined before the Dublin Society with severity enough in Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Astronomy, Chronology, speculative Music and Mechanics, in all of which she answered with great readiness and judgment.

March 25, 1661. It was directed that inquiry should be made, whether there be such little dwarfish men in the vaults of the Canaries as was reported.

1675. Mr. Hooke remarked [in discussion] that all bodies dissolvable by the saliva are tastable, and consequently all bodies tastless, that cannot be dissolved by the saliva.

1679. Upon the mention of sheathing of ships with lead, Mr. Hunt gave an account, that he had tinned some iron nails; but that it would not wholly preserve them from rust.

March 26, 1662. The amanuensis was ordered to go to Radcliffe, and bespeak large receivers of glass as thick as possible, with an hole in the bottom capable of receiving a man's arm: And that he make cement for Mr. Rooke according to Monsieur Huygen's directions.

1668. It being mentioned again, that the Florentines had affirmed, that sounds move equally swift against and with the wind, it was suggested by the president, that the experiment might be conveniently enough made between Deal and Dover, and that he would desire the governor of Deal-castle to take care of it.

March 28, 1667. Dr. Wren produced drawings of the figures of hail which had fallen March 27, 1667, the upper part of which was a perfect cone, the under part the frustum of a cone.

1678. Mr. Moses Pitt, bookseller, having made a proposal to the Society of his design of printing an Atlas, it was referred to a committee to report their thoughts of it.

March 29, 1665. Dr. Charlton having been called to account for his taking home with him, the little box with Macassar poison; he alledged, that he had done so, fearing it might be left, it being found standing in the window when all the company was gone out. It was ordered that nothing belonging to the society should be taken away without their leave.

1666. It was ordered, that particular written summons be sent to the princes of the blood, and to as many lords of the society as were in town, for attendance at the annual election at the usual place in Gresham-college.