

VII. *Extract of a Letter from Jos. Ignat. de Torres, M. D. to the ROYAL SOCIETY, containing an extraordinary Case of the Heart of a Child turned upside down.*

Gandia in Valentia, March 19. 1738. N. S.

—UPON occasion of mentioning Anatomy, I am in Hopes you will not be displeased with an Account of a new and surprising Prodigy concerning the Heart, the like of which was never hitherto observed, till I saw it on the 29th of *December 1736.* in a new-born Female Infant of the Town of *Almoyna*, and faithfully delineated it. Innumerable *Phænomena* have been observed in the human Heart, some few of which I shall mention.

Ballonius saw a Heart so large, that its monstrous Size alone, without any Defect in the Lungs, occasioned an *Asthma*.

Bartholinus found *Caruncles* in the *Ventricles*.

Spilembergerus observed a small Bone therein, which occasioned a *Phthisis*.

Zacutus Lusitanus tells us from the Report of another Person, that a * Worm was found in the Left Ventricle, which brought on dreadful Symptoms. Its Head was yellow, its Body white, and its Tail split.

Riolanus opened the Body of a Man, whose Heart was cartilaginous.

According to *Raygerus*, the *Aorta* with the *Valves* was found ossified; which was the Cause of sudden Death. Ge-

* Rather a *Polypus*.

C. M.

Genesius of *Valencia*, a very able Physician, has apprised me in one of his Letters, that, upon opening his young Son, he found the Heart inverted ; that is, the Left Ventricle on the Right, and the Right on the Left Side.

Amorosus saw a Heart with Two Points, which on the Outside shewed the Two Ventricles.

Sirenarius found a Heart with its Cone in the Right Side, and there the Pulsation was constantly felt.

Martinezius, First Physician to the King of *Spain*, observed in a new-born Male Infant, the Heart pushed out of the Breast, with its Cone and Basis lying horizontal, and without a *Pericardium*: A new and remarkable *Phænomenon* ; as if the Heart, not bearing so close a Confinement, burst through the Breast, and, having broke the *Sternum*, appeared on the Outside.

I omit *Benivenus*, *Muretus*, *Scultetus*, and *Gierfdorf*, who observed the Heart hairy, and found Stones, *Polypuses* and *Abscesses* in its Ventricles.

In fine, I have observed, in a new-born Female Infant, the Heart without a *Pericardium*, and turned upside down, so that its Basis, with all the Vessels, had fallen down as low as the Navel ; and its *Apex*, still on the Left Side, lay hid between the Two Lungs. It would be a great Pleasure to me, to transmit this uncommon Observation to Posterity in a proper Light. But as it will require a Discourse too large for a Letter, and am apprehensive of being tedious, at present I only send you this Notice of it ; but promise that as soon as I have finished a Dissertation thereon, which I have already begun, I will send

send it to the ROYAL SOCIETY, with a Figure of the Infant, with the Parts in their proper *Site*. One thing I cannot pass in Silence, *viz.* how the Circulation could be carried on, the Heart being thus inverted; and yet the Child lived several Days after Birth. I observed the Heart from its Basis, whence the *Aorta* and pulmonary Artery spring, and where the *Cava* and pulmonary Vein enter it, to its Cone, surrounded loosely with several Windings of these Vessels, through which the Blood's Circulation must necessarily be performed. A wonderful Sagacity in Nature! but I shall reserve the rest for my Tract.

VIII. Johannes Castillioneus *D^{no}. de Montagny, V. D. Philosoph. Prof. in Acad. Lauzannesi, Reg. Soc. Lond. Soc. &c. de Curva Cardioide, de Figura sua sic dicta.*

S. P.

NON ignoro, V. C. novarum curvarum investigationem, tanquam nimis Analytici facilem, contemni: Cum tamen D. *Carré*, non mediocri Geometra Regiæ Scientiarum Academiæ, (28 Feb. 1705.) novam curvam, quanquam *vix summa sequens fastigia rerum*, proponere non dubitavit; cur tibi, viro in amicos benignissimo, nonnulla, quæ mihi ejusdem *Carré* dissertationem legenti venerunt in mentem, scribere non ausim? Sed procemiis omissis, ad rem.

Semicirculi *BMA*, (Fig. 1. 2. 3. TAB. III.) diameter *BA*, ita, puncto *B* peripheriam radens, ut semper trans-