ON THE REMARKABLE DIFFUSION OF CORALLINE ANIMALCULES FROM THE USE OF CHALK IN THE ARTS OF LIFE, AS OBSERVED BY EHRENBERG.

An examination of the finest powdered sorts of chalk which are used in trade has afforded Professor Ehrenberg the following result, that even in this finest condition not merely the inorganic part of the chalk is become separated, but that it remains mixed with a great number of well-preserved forms of the minute shells of Coral Animalcules. As powdered chalk is used for paper-hangings, Professor Ehrenberg also examined these as well as the walls of his chambers which were simply washed with lime, and even a kind of glazed vellum paper called visiting cards, and obtained the very visible result,—demonstrating the minuteness of division of independent organic life,—that those walls and paper-hangings, and so doubtless all similar walls of rooms, houses, and churches, and even glazed visiting cards prepared in the above-mentioned manner (of which cards, many however, are made with pure white lead, without any addition of chalk) present, when magnified 300 diameters, and penetrated with Canada balsam, a delicate mosaic of elegant coralline animalcules, invisible to the naked eye, but, if sufficiently magnified, more beautiful than any painting that covers them.—*Pogg. Ann.* 1839. No. 9.

NOTE ON PELORIA. BY MR. ADAM WHITE.*

Linnæus, in the 'Amœnitates Academicæ' for 1749 (i. p. 282. tab. 3.) described and figured the *Peloria* as a distinct genus of plants, which he however subsequently in his 'Species Plantarum,' (ii. p. 859. ed. 2.) included with the *Antirrhinum Linaria* (*Linaria vulgaris*, DC.) of which he considered it a monstrosity ("*naturæ prodigium*") caused by the corolla of the plant becoming regular, that is being furnished with 5 lobes to the lip, 5 basal spurs and pentandrous flowers: even in 1763 Linnæus thought it might form a peculiar genus, "*nisi fructus semper abortiret.*"

Since that time this kind of variation has been observed in many other plants, as for example by M. Mirbel in the *Teucrium campanulatum* and many other *Labiata* ('Elémens de Physiologie Végétale,' &c. p^tie^ i. p. 221. note.).

M. Bosc alludes to its occurrence in the genera *Rhinanthus* and *Dracocephalum* ('Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.' xxv. p. 146.).

M. Guillemin observed it in *Sideritis* ('Dict. Ch. d'Hist. Nat.' xiii. p. 164.).

M. DeCandolle has found it in several species of *Linaria*, *An-*

* Read before the Botanical Society of London, 21st Dec. 1838.

tirrhinum, Digitalis, Sesamum, Galeopsis, Viola, Orchis, and hence believes that it is a phænomenon common to all irregular flowers (' Organographie Végétale,' i. pp. 518. and 519. ed. 1827.). The last-mentioned author figures the *Viola hirta* in various states of pelorization; and Guillemin, in the work above-quoted, mentions that he has frequently found the *Linaria spuria,* DC., in the same state, some specimens with 5 spurs, others with 4, 3, or 2. I am indebted to a friend for the sight of a pelorian variety of a species of *Tropæolum,* and have also much pleasure in showing the Society an imperfectly developed pelorian variety of the pretty *Pinguicula vulgaris,* which I gathered on Roydon Fen, near Diss in Norfolk, in the summer of 1835. This is perhaps interesting, inasmuch as it still further corroborates the inference drawn by M. DeCandolle, and because, as far as I am aware, the occurrence of such a monstrosity has not been before observed in the order *Lentibulariæ.*

Linnæus attributed the production of peloria to the fecundation of the *Linaria* by the pollen of another plant; other authors think it is caused by the puncturing of insects, which produces a deviation in the flow of the sap.

M. DeCandolle attributes it to "the phænomenon of a glandular, thread-shaped body being developed into a true stamen," (Organogr. u. s.) when the other parts of the flower return to symmetrical arrangement.

ADAM WHITE.

December 7, 1838.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR OCT., 1839.

Chiswick.—Oct. 1. Foggy: very fine. 2. Foggy: rain. 3. Very fine. 4. Rain: stormy with rain at night. 5. Boisterous: clear. 6. Fine. 7. Cloudy: fine. 8. Hazy: very fine. 9. Very fine: heavy rain at night. 10. Showery: sultry at intervals. 11. Very fine. 12. Fine: rain at night. 13. Foggy: fine. 14. Fine. 15, 16. Slight fog: fine. 17. Foggy. 18. Drizzly. 19, 20. Foggy: fine. 21, 22. Hazy: fine. 23, 24. Rain. 25. Overcast: fine. 26, 27. Clear and fine. 28. Stormy: showers of rain. 29, 30. Hazy and cold. 31. Rain.

Boston.—Oct. 1. Fine. 2. Cloudy: rain P.M. 3. Fine. 4. Rain: rain early A.M. 5. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 6. Cloudy. 7, 8. Fine. 9. Cloudy. 10. Rain. 11. Fine. 12. Cloudy. 13. Cloudy: rain early A.M. 14, 15. Cloudy. 16. Fine. 17. Cloudy. 18. Cloudy: rain A.M. 19. Fine. 20, 21. Foggy. 22, 23. Cloudy. 24. Rain. 25. Cloudy. 26. Fine: rain early A.M. 27. Fine: rain P.M. 28. Rain: rain early A.M. 29. Cloudy: rain: stormy night. 30. Stormy. 31. Cloudy.

Applegarth Manse, Dumfries-shire.—Oct. 1. Wet throughout. 2. Very wet morning: cleared at noon. 3. Fair till 11 A.M., when began to rain. 4. Fair all day. 5. Fine calm day: hoar frost morning and ice. 6. The same: hoar frost still stronger. 7. A very good harvest day: getting cloudy P.M. 8. Drizzling all day. 9. The same. 10. The same A.M.: fair P.M. 11. Fair throughout. 12. The same. 13. The same: overcast in the evening. 14. Drizzling all day. 15. Dull, cloudy, and damp: rain P.M. 16. Sunshine and showers alternately. 17. Very fine day: hoar frost early A.M. 18, 19. The same: ice on the ponds. 20. Very fine day. 21. Fair; but dull and foggy. 22. Fair till noon, when rain came on. 23. Rain all day. 24. Rain all day though slight. 25, 26. Fair throughout. 27. Clear and temperate. 28. Fine October day. 29. One slight shower, when it cleared. 30. Fair: air very keen. 31. The same: keen and cold like a day in March.

1839. "Note on peloria." *Annals of natural history* 4, 286–287. https://doi.org/10.1080/00222933909496705.

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