of a rufous white : the head and neck are white, and not ſo full of feathers as thoſe of owls generally are, and from this circumſtance it appears not unlike a hawk: a large patch of dark brown ſurrounds each eye, giving the bird much the appearance of wearing ſpectacles; the legs are covered with feathers quite to the toes, and are of a yellowiſh colour. A ſpecimen of this curious bird may be ſeen in the Leverian museum.

STROBILUS, in botany, a pericarp formed from an amentum by the hardening of the ſcales,

STROKING, or rubbing gently with the hand, a me­thod which has been employed by ſome perſons for curing diſeaſes.

Mr Greatrakes or Greatrix, the famous Iriſh ſtroker, is ſaid to have performed many wonderful cures. He gives the following account of his diſcovery of this art, and of the ſucceſs with which he practiſed it “@@About 1662 I had an impulse (says he), or a ſtrange perſuaſion in my own mind (of which I am not able to give any rational account to another), which did very frequently ſuggeſt to me, that there was bestowed on me the gift of curing the king’s evil; which, for the extraordinarineſs of it, I thought fit to con­ceal for ſome time : but at length I communicated this to my wife, and told her, that I did verily believe that God had given me the bleſſing of curing the king’s evil; for whether I were in private or public, ſleeping or waking, ſtill I had the ſame impulſe. But her reply to me was, that ſhe conceived this was a ſtrange imagination ; yet, to prove the contrary, a few days after there was one William Ma­ther of Salterbridge in the pariſh of Lismore, who brought his ſon William to my house, desiring my wife to cure him, who was a perſon ready to afford her charity to her neigh­bours, according to her ſmall ſkill in chirurgery. On which my wife told me, there was one that had the king’s evil very grievouſly in the eyes, cheek, and throat ; whereupon I told her, that ſhe ſhould now ſee whether this were a bare fancy or imagination, as ſhe thought it, or the dictates of God’s Spirit on my heart. Then I laid my hands on the places affected, and prayed to God for Jeſus sake to heal him; and bid the parent two or three days afterwards to bring the child to me again, which accordingly he did; and I then saw the eye was almoſt quite whole; and the node, which was almoſt as big as a pullet’s egg, was ſuppurated ; and the throat ſtrangely amended ; and, to be brief (to God’s glory I ſpeak it) within a month diſcharged itself quite, and was perfectly healed, and ſo continues, God be praiſed.”

Then there came to him one Margaret Macſhane of Ballinecly, in the pariſh of Liſmore, who had been afflicted with the evil above ſeven years, in a much more violent de­gree ; and ſoon after, his fame increaſing, he cured the ſame diſeaſe in many other perſons for three years. He did not meddle all this time with any other diſtemper; till about the end of theſe three years, the ague growing epidemical, he found, as formerly, that there was bellowed on him the gift of curing that diſeaſe. He cured Colonel Phaire, of Cahirmony in the county of Corke, of an ague, and after­wards many other perſons of different diſtempers, by ſtroking ; ſo that his name was wonderfully cried up, as if ſome divine perſon had been sent from above. January 1665-6, he came over to England, at the requeſt of the earl of Or­rery ; in order to cure the lady of the lord-viſcount Conway, of Ragley in Warwickſhire, who had for many years laboured under a moſt violent headache. He ſtaid at Ragley three weeks or a month ; and though he failed in his endeavours to relieve that lady, he cured vast numbers of people in thoſe parts and at Worceſter.

Though we are no friends to the marvellous, nor believe it poſſible that either the king’s evil or ague can be cured by ſtroking or friction of any kind, whether gentle or ſevere, we have no heſitation to acknowledge that many cures might be performed by Mr Greatrakes. Every reflecting per­ſon who reads the foregoing account which he gives of himſelf will ſee that he was an enthuſiaſt, and believed himſelf guided by a particular revelation ; and ſuch is the credulity of mankind, that his pretensions were readily admitted, and men crouded with eagerneſs to be relieved of their diſeaſes. But it is well known to phyſicians, that in many caſes the imagination has accompliſhed cures as wonderful as the force of medicine. It is owing chiefly to the influence of ima­gination that we have ſo many accounts from people of ve­racity of the wonderful effects of quack medicines. We are perfectly aſſured that theſe medicines, by their natural ope­ration, can never produce the effects aſcribed to them ; for there is no kind of proportion between the medicine and the effect produced, and often no connection between the medi­cine and the diſeaſe.

STROMATEUS, in ichthyology, a genus of fiſhes be­longing to the order of *apodes.* The head is compreſſed ; the teeth are placed in the jaws and palate ; the body is oval and ſlippery ; and the tail is forked. There are three ſpecies according to Gmelin, the fiatola, paru, and cumarca.

STROMBOLI, the moſt northern of the Lipari islands. It is a volcano, which conſtantly diſcharges much fire and ſmoke. It riſes in a conical form above the ſurface of the ſea. On the eaſt side it has three or four little craters ran­ged near each other, not at the ſummit, but on the decli­vity, nearly at two thirds or its height. But as the ſurface of the volcano is very rugged, and interſected with hollow­ ways, it may be naturally concluded, that at the time of ſome great eruption, the ſummit and a part of this side fell in, as muſt have happened alſo to Veſuvius; consequently,the common chimney is at this day on the declivity, al­though always in the centre of the whole base. It is inha­bited notwithſtanding its fires ; but care is taken to avoid the proximity of the crater, which is yet much to be feared. “ I was aſſured (says Μ. de Luc) by an Engliſhman, who, like me, had the curiosity to viſit theſe iſles, that the fine weather having invited him and his company to land at Stromboli, they aſcended a volcano, whole craters at that time threw out nothing ; but that while they were atten­tively viewing them, unapprehensive of any danger, they were ſuddenly ſaluted by such a furious diſcharge, as to be obliged to retreat with precipitation, and not without one of the company being wounded by a piece of ſcoria.” Of all the volcanoes recorded in hiſtory, Stromboli ſeems to be the only one that burns without ceasing. Etna and Veſuvius often lie quiet for many months, and even years, with­out the leaſt appearance of fire ; but Stromboli is ever at work, and for ages paſt has been looked upon as the great lighthouſe of theſe ſeas. E.Long. 15.45. N. Lat. 30. 0.

STROMBUS, in natural hiſtory, a genus of vermes, be­longing to the order of *testacea.* The animal is a limax 4 the hell is univalve and ſpiral ; the opening is much dila­ted, and ends in a canal which turns to the left. Gmelin enumerates 53 ſpecies; of which only one is peculiar to Britain, the pes pelecani. The ſpires are ten ; the lip is fingered ; the point very ſharp ; the length two inches.

STRONGOLI, a town of the kingdom of Naples, with a biſhop’s see. It is ſituated on a rugged mountain, is about three miles from the ſea, and ſeven north from St Severino. It is ſuppoſed to be the ancient *Petelia,* which made a conspicuous figure in the second Punic war by its obſtinate reſistance against Hannibal. Near its walls Marcellus the ri-

@@@[mu] Brief Account of Mr. Valentine Greatrakes, London 1666, 4to.