an iron rod ZR, fixed at a proper diſtance from the other end of the midriff, and paſſing through a ſmall hole in the cover of the box up to R. Two boxes of this kind may be employed at once, and the two iron rods may be fixed to a lever FG (fig. 2.) moving on a fixed centre O ; ſo that by the alternate raising and preſſing down of the lever FG, the midriffs are alſo alternately raised and depressed, whereby theſe double bellows are at the ſame time both drawing in air, and pouring it out, through apertures with valves made on the ſame side with, and placed both above and below, the hinges of the midriffs. In order to render the midriffs light, they are made of four bars lengthwiſe, and as many across them breadthwiſe, the vacant ſpaces being filled up with thin pannels of fir-board ; and that they may move to and fro with the greater eaſe, and without touching the ſides of the boxes, there is an iron regulator fixed upright to the middle of the end of the box AC (fig. 1.) from N to L, with a notch cut into the middle of the end of the midriff at Z ; ſo that the midriffs, in riſing and falling, ſuffer no other friction than what is made between the regulator and the notch. Moreover, as the midriff ZX moves with its edges only one twentieth of an inch from the ſides of the box ABCDFE, very little air will eſcape by the edges; and, therefore, there will be no need of leathern ſides as in the common bellows. The end of the box at C is made a little circular, that it may be better adapted between A and C to the riſing and falling midriff ; and at the other end X of the midriff a slip of leather may be nailed over the joints it needful. The eight large valves through which the air is to paſs, are placed at the hinge-end of the boxes BK (fig. z.) as at I, 2, 3, &c. The valve I opens inward to admit the air to enter, when the midriff is depressed at the other end by means of the lever FG. And at the ſame time the valve 3 in the lower ventilator is ſhut by the compressed am which passes out at the valve 4. But when that midriff is raiſed, the valve 1 shuts, and the air paſſes out at the valve 2. And it is the same with the valves 5*, 6,* &c. of the other box ; ſo that the midriffs are alternately riſing and falling, and two of the ventilators drawing in air, and two blowing it out ; the air entering at the valves 1, 3, 6, 8, and paſſing out at the valves 2, 4, 5, 7. Before theſe laſt valves there is fixed to the ventilators a box QQNM (fig. 3.) as a com­mon receptacle for all the air which comes out of theſe valves; which air paſſes off by the trunk P, through the wall of a building.

For a farther account of this machine we refer to the au­thor himſelf, who gives a full detail of it and of its manner of working. See Deſcription of Ventilators by Stephen Hales, D, D. Lond. 1743, 8vo.

The ventilators in large ſhips, ſince the order for ventila­ting the fleet iſſued by the lords of the admiralty in 1756, are fixed in the gunner’s fore-ſtore-room, and generally a- head of the sail-room. The foul air is carried up through the decks and fore-caſtle near the fore-maſt, ſometimes afore it, and ſometimes abaft it, but more frequently on its star-board side ; the lever, by which the ventilators are worked, is under the fore-caſtle in two deck ſhips, and between the upper and middle decks in three-deckers ; ſometimes the le­ver is hung athwart ſhips ; in some ſhips afore and aft, and in others oblique. The iron rod, which communicates the motion from the lever, paſſes through the partners of the fore-maſt, and is connected with another lever, ſuſpended at or near the middle ; in ſome ſhips over the ventilators, in others under them, when it is found neceſſary to fix them up to the deck. The beſt method to ſave room is to place the ventilators over one another with their circular ends to­gether ; the air-trunk ſhould be ſo high above deck, that the men on deck may not be incommoded by the foul air which blows out of it ; and therefore the trunk comes through the upper deck, near and behind the foremaſt. For the method of freeing mines, ships, priſons, &c from noxious air by means of fire-pipes, ſee Pneumatics, n⁰ 371.

VENTRICLE, properly denotes any little cavity; but is more particularly uſed by phyſicians and anatomiſts for the ſtomach and certain cavities of the heart and brain.

VENTRILOQUISM, an art by which certain perſons can so modify their voice, as to make it appear to the au­dience to proceed from any diſtance, and in any direction. Some faint traces of this art are to be found in the writings of the ancients ; and it is the opinion of M. de la Chapelle, who in the year 1772 published an ingenious work on the ſubject, that the responſes of many of the oracles were de­livered by persons thus qualified to ſerve the purpoſes of priest-craft and deluſion. As the ancient ventriloquiſts, when exercising their art, ſeemed generally to ſpeak from their own bellies, the name by which they were deſigned was abundantly ſignificant ; but it is with no great proprie­ty that modern performers are called *ventriloquists,* and their art *ventriloquiſm,* ſince they appear more frequently to ſpeak from the pockets of their neighbours, or from the roof or diſtant corners of the room, than from their own mouths or their own bellies.

From Brodean, a learned critic of the 16th century, we have the following account of the feats of a capital ventriloquiſt and cheat, who was valet de chambre to Francis the Firſt. The fellow, whoſe name was *Louis Brabant,* had fallen deſperately in love with a young, handſome, and rich heirets ; but was rejected by the parents as an unſuitable match for their daughter, on account of the lowneſs of his circumſtances. The young lady’s father dying, he made a viſit to the widow, who was totally ignorant of his sin­gular talent. Suddenly, on his firſt appearance, in open day, in her own houſe, and in the preſence of ſeveral persons who were with her, ſhe heard herſelf accoſted, in a voice perfectly resembling that of her dead huſband, and which ſeemed to proceed from above, exclaiming, “ Give my daughter in marriage to Louis Brabant : He is a man of great fortune, and of an excellent character. I now en­sure the inexpreſſible torments of purgatory, for having refuſed her to him. If you obey this admonition, I ſhall soon be delivered from this place of torment. You will at the ſame time provide a worthy huſband for your daughter,, and procure everlasting repoſe to the soul of your poor huſband.”

The widow could not for a moment reſiſt this dread ſummons, which had not the moſt diſtant appearance of pro­ceeding from Louis Brabant ; whoſe countenance exhibited, no viſible change, and whoſe lips were cloſe and motionleſs, during the delivery of it. Accordingly, ſhe conſented im­mediately to receive him for her son-in-law. Louis’s finan­ces, however, were in a very low ſituation ; and the forma­lities attending the marriage contract rendered it neceſſary for him to exhibit ſome show of riches, and not to give the ghoſt the lie direct. He accordingly went to work upon a freſh ſubject, one Cornu, an old and rich banker at Lyons; who had accumulated immenſe wealth by uſury and extor­tion, and was known to be haunted by remorſe of conſcience on account of the manner in which he had acqui­red it.

Having contracted an intimate acquaintance with this man, he, one day while they were sitting together in the uſurer’s little back parlour, artfully turned the converſation on religious ſubjects, on demons and ſpectres, the pairs of purgatory, and the torments of hell. During an interval of ſilence between them, a voice was heard, which to the aſtoniſhed banker ſeemed to be that of his deceaſed father,