or depress at pleaſure. It is in length 15 inches ; the bill is black, two inches and a half long, ſlender, and incurvated ; the irides are hazel : the crest conſiſts of a double row of feathers ; the higheſt about two inches long ; the tips are black, their lower part of a pale orange colour : the neck is of a pale reddiſh brown ; the breast and belly white; the lesser coverts of the wings are of a light brown ; the back, ſcapulars, and wings, crossed with broad bars of white and black ; the rump is white ; the tail conſists of only 10 feathers, white marked with black, in form of a crescent, the horns pointing towards the end of the feathers. The legs are ſhort and black ; the exterior toe is cloſely united at the bottom to the middle toe.

According to Linnaeus, it takes its name from its note, which has a sound ſimilar to the word ; or it may be deri­ved from the French *huppe,* or “ creſted ;” it breeds in hollow trees, and lays two aſhcoloured eggs : it feeds on in­fects, which it picks out of ordure of all kinds. Dr Pallas affirms, that it breeds in preference in putrid carcases ; and that he had ſeen the nest of one in the privy of an uninha­bited houſe, in the suburbs of Tzaritſyn.

Ovid ſays that Tereus was changed into this bird :

*Vertitur in volucrem, cui stant in vertice criſtae, Prominet immodicum pro longa cuſpidae rostrum : Nomen epops volucri.* Metam, lib. vi. l. 672.

Tereus, through grief and haſte to be reveng’d,

Shares the like fate, and to a bird is chang’d.

Fix’d on his head the creſted plumes appear.

Long is his beak, and ſharpen’d as a ſpear.

*Croxall.*

UR (anc. geog.), a citadel of Mesopotamia, ſituated be­tween the Tigris and Niſibis ; taken by ſome for Ur of the Chaldees, the reſidence of Abraham. What ſeems to con­firm this is, that from Ur to Haran, the other reſidence of the patriarch, the road lies directly for Paleſtine. And it is no objection that Ur is ſaid to be in Mesopotamia ; because the parts next the Tigris were occupied by the Chal­deans, as ſeems to be confirmed from Acts vii. 2,4. It is called *Orche,* in Strabo ; *Orchoe,* in Ptolemy.

URALLIAN Chain, a range of mountains which form part of the boundaries of Aſia, and anciently known by the name of *Riphai Montes.* See *Riphæi Montes,* &c.

URANIA, in fabulous hiſtory, one of the nine Muſes, was ſuppoſed to preside over aſtronomy. She is commonly repreſented in an azure robe, crowned with ſtars, and supporting a large globe with both hands.

URANIUM, a fossil found at Johangeorgenſtad in Sa­xony, and at Joachimſtal in Bohemia, and is, by the miners, called *Pechblend.* Μ. Werner, a German mineralogiſt, be­ing convinced that it was not a blend, gave it the name of *Ferrum Ochraceum Piceum,* and thought it contained the tungſtic acid combined with iron : but Μ. Klaproth is of a contrary opinion, and maintains that it is very different from wolfram. There are (he ſays) two varieties of pechblend: the one is of a dark grey colour, with very little brilliancy, the particles of which have the form of a flattened con­choid ; it is not very hard, and, when triturated, becomes a black powder : its mean ſpecific gravity is 7,5. The other is diſtinguiſhed by its black colour, though it ſometimes assumes a reddiſh tint : its ſurface is more brilliant than that of the former, and reſembles pit-coal; it is alſo lets hard ; and the black powder, to which it is reduced by tri­turation, has a greenish hue. This kind is generally diſcovered in compact masſes, lying between ſtrata of a mica­ceous ſchiſt, which is found to be decompounded. In the internal parts of this ſtone, it is not uncommon to meet with veins of a peculiar yellow metallic earth. The pechblend is ſoluble in the nitric and in the nitro-muriatic acids, partial­ly ſo in the muriatic, but not at all in the ſulphuric. From theſe ſolutions, the unſaturated ferruginous pruſſiat of potaſh, or phlogiſticated alkali, precipitates the metallic ſubſtance, which then reſembles kermes mineral in colour. This, when it does not unite in flakes, but is uniformly diffuſed in the ſolution, may be conſidered as one of the moſt diſtinguishing characters of the pechblend ; another is, that the precipitates, effected by the volatile and fixed alkalis, are yellow; the fixed cauſtic alkalis giving it a lemon colour, the aerated a like yellow. This yellow oxyd, or calx, cannot be fuſed with alkalis. As this fossil cannot be claſſed either among the zinc or iron ores, and is very different from tungſtein, Μ. Klaproth propoſes to give to it the appellation of *Uranium;* and he diſtributes it into the following ſpecies:

1. *Uranium ſulphuratum.* (a) Dark gray, often exhibiting traces of Galena. (b) Black, reſembling pit-coal.

2. *Uranium Ochraceum.* Brimſtone colour, lemon colour, deep yellow, reddiſh brown.

3. *Uranium Spathoſum.* (4) Tinged with green by copper. (b) Yellow. This is the green mica or chalcolithe.

URANOSCOPUS, in ichthyology, a genus of fishes belonging to the order of *jugulares.* The head is large, rough, and depressed, the upper jaw being ſhorter than the under one ; there are six dentated rays in the membrane of the gills ; and the anus is in the middle of the body. There are two ſpecies, onc of which is found in the Medi­terranean Sea.

Raphael d’URBINO. See Raphael.

URCHIN, in zoology. See Echinus.

URETERS, in anatomy. See Anatomy, n⁰ 101. URETHRA, in anatomy. See Anatoey, n⁰ 107.

URIM *and* Thummim, among the ancient Hebrews, a certain oracular manner of conſulting God, which was done by the high prieſt dressed in his robes, and having on his pectoral or breaſt-plate.

Various have been the ſentiments of commentators con­cerning the urim and thummim. Josephus, and ſeveral others, maintain, that it meant the precious ſtones ſet in the high-prieſt’s breaſt-plate, which by extraordinary luſtre made known the will of God to thoſe who conſulted him. Spencer believes that the urim and thummim were two little golden figures ſhut up in the pectoral as in a purſe, which gave reſponſes with an articulate voice. In ſhort, there are as many opinions concerning the urim and thummim as there are particular authors that wrote about them. The ſafeſt opinion, according to Broughton, ſeems to be, that the words *urim* and *thummim* ſignify ſome divine virtue and power annexed to the breaſt-plate of the high-prieſt, by which an oraculous anſwer was obtained from God when he was conſulted by the high-prieſt ; and that this was called *urim* and *thummim,* to expreſs the clearneſs and perfection which theſe oracular anſwers always carried with them ; for urim signifies “ light,” and thummim “ perfection :” theſe anſwers not being imperfect and ambiguous, like the heathen oracles, but clear and evident. The uſe made of the urim and thummim was to conſult God in difficult cases relating to the whole ſtate of Iſrael ; and ſometimes in caſes relating to the king, the ſanhedrim, the general of the army, or ſome other great personage.

URINAL, in medicine, a veſſel fit to receive and hold urine, and uſed accordingly for the convenience of ſick per­ſons. It is uſually of glaſs, and crooked ; and ſometimes it is filled with milk, to aſſuage the pain of the gravel.

Urinal, in chemiſtry, is an oblong glaſs vessel, cloſed for making ſolutions, and ſo called from its reſemblance to the glasses in which urine is ſet to settle for the inſpection of the phyſician.