longing to the claſs and order of *vermes testacea.* There are 144 ſpecies. The animals are of the ſlug kind ; the ſhell is unilocular and ſpiral ; the aperture narrow and without a beak : the columella plaited.

VOLUTE, in architecture, a kind of ſpiral ſcroll uſed in the Ionic and Compoſite capitals, whereof it makes the principal characteriſtic and ornament.

VOMICA, in medicine, an abſceſs of the lungs. See Medicine, n⁰ 186.

*Nux Vomica,* in pharmacy, a flat compressed round fruit, of the breadth of a ſhilling, or ſomewhat more, and of about the thickneſs of a crown-piece.

It is the nucleus of a fruit of an Eaſt-Indian tree, the wood of which is the *lignum columbrinum* of the ſhops.

Some have preſcribed ſmall doſes of the nux vomica as a ſpecific againſt a gonorrhoea, and others againſt quartan agues. But we have ſo many good and ſafe medicines for all theſe purpoſes, that there items no occaſion for our ha­ving recourſe to ſuch as theſe, which ſhow ſo many ſigns of miſchief.

VOMIT. See Emetic.

VOMITING, a retrograde ſpaſmodic motion of the muscular fibres of the oeſophagus, ſtomach, and inteſtines, attended with ſtrong convulsions of the muſcles of the abdomen and diaphragm ; which, when gentle, create a nauſea ; when violent, a vomiting.

VOORN, one of the iſlands of Holland, bounded by the river Maes, which divides it from the continent and the iſland of Iſlemunde, on the north ; by the ſea called the *Bies-bosch,* on the eaſt ; by another branch of the Maes, which divides it from the iſlands of Goree and Overflackee, on the ſouth ; and by the German ſea on the west ; being about 24 miles long, and 5 broad.

VORTEX, in meteorology, a whirlwind, or ſudden, rapid, and violent motion of the air in gyres, or circles.

Vortex is alſo uſed for an eddy or whirlpool ; or a body of water, in certain ſeas or rivers, which run rapidly around, forming a sort of cavity in the middle.

Vortex, in the Carteſian philoſophy, is a ſyſtem or col­lection of particles of matter moving the ſame way, and round the ſame axis.

VORTICELLO. See Microscope, Vol. XI. page 745.

VOSSIUS (John Gerard), one of the moſt learned and laborious writers of the 17th century, was of a conſiderable family in the Netherlands; and was born in 1577, in the Palatinate, near Heidelberg, at a place where his father, John Voſſius, was miniſter. He became well ſkilled in polite literature, hiſtory, and ſacred and profane antiquities, and was made director of the college of Dort. He was at length made professor of eloquence and chronology at Ley­den, from whence he was called in 1633 to Amſterdam, to fill the chair of a professor of hiſtory. He died in 1649. He wrote many learned works, of which a complete edition has been printed at Amſterdam, in 9 vols folio.

Vossius (Iſaac), a man of great parts and learning, the ſon of John Gerard Voſſius, was born at Leyden in 1618. He had no other tutor but his father, and employed his whole life in ſtudying : his merit recommended him to a correſpondence with queen Chriſtina of Sweden ; he made ſeveral journeys into Sweden by her order, and had the honour to teach her the Greek language. In 1670 he came over to England, where king Charles made him canon of Windſor ; though he knew his character well enough to ſay, That there was nothing that Voſſius refuſed to believe, excepting the Bible. He appears indeed by his publica­tions, which are neither ſo uſeful nor ſo numerous as his fa­ther's; to have been a moſt credulous man, while he afforded many circumſtance to bring his religious faith in queſtion. He died at Windſor caſtle in 1688.

VOTE, the ſuffrage or reſolve of each of the members of an assembly, where any affair is to be carried by a majori­ty ; but more particularly uſed for the resolves of the mem­bers of either houſe of parliament.

VOTIVE medals, those on which are expressed the vows of the people for the emperors or empresses. See Me­dal.

VOW, a ſolemn and religious promiſe or oath. See Oath.

The uſe of vows is found in moſt religions. They make up a conſiderable part of the Pagan worſhip, being made either in conſequence of ſome deliverance, under ſome preſsing neceſſity, or for the ſucceſs of ſome enterprize. Among the Jews, all vows were to be voluntary, and made by perſons wholly in their own power ; and if ſuch perſon made a vow in any thing lawful and poſſible, he was obliged to fulfil it. If he appointed no particular time for accomplishing his vow, he was bound to do it inſtantly, left by delay he ſhould prove leſs able, or be unwilling, to execute his promiſe. Among the Romaniſts, a perſon is conſtituted a religious by taking three vows ; that of poverty, chaſtity, and obedience.

Vows, among the Romans, signified ſacrifices, offerings, preſents, and prayers made for the Cæsars, and emperors, particulary for their proſperity and the continuance of their empire. Theſe were at firſt made every 5 years, then every 15, and afterwards every 20, and were called *quinquen­nalia, decennalia,* and *vincennalia.*

VOWEL, in grammar, a letter which affords a complete ſound of itſelf, or a letter ſo ſimple as only to need a bare opening of the mouth to make it heard, and to form a diſtinct voice. The vowels are six in number, *viz.* A, E, I, O, U, Y.

Vowel (John). See Hooker.

UPHOLSTER, Upholsterer, or *Upholder,* a tradeſman that makes beds, and all sorts of furniture thereunto belonging, &c.

UPLAND, denotes high ground, or, as ſome call it, *terra firma,* by which it ſtands oppoſed to ſuch as is mooriſh, marſhy, or low.

Upland, a province of Sweden, bounded on the north- eaſt by the Baltic Sea, on the ſouth by the ſea of Sudermania, and on the west by Weſtmania and Geſtricia, from which it is ſeparated by the river Dela. It is about 70 miles in length and 45 in breadth, and contains mines of iron and lead. Stockholm is the capital.

UPSAL, a rich and conſiderable city of Sweden, in Up­land, with a famous univerſity, and an archbiſhop’s see. The town is pretty large, and as ſtraight as a line ; but moſt of the houſes are of wood, covered with birch-bark, with turf on the top. On an eminence, to the ſouth of the town, is a ruined caſtle. Thoſe that view the town from hence would take it to be a garden, whoſe ſtreets repreſent the alleys ; and the houſes, which are covered with turf, the graſs-plats. It was formerly the reſidence of the kings, and is now the uſual place where they are crowned. It is ſeated on the river Sala, over which there are two bridges. It is 27 miles north-west of Stockholm. E. Long. 17. 48. N. Lat. 59. 52.

UPUPA, in ornithology ; a genus belonging to the order of *picae.* The beak is arcuated, convex, and ſomething blunt ; the tongue is obtuſe, triangular, entire, and very ſhort ; and the feet are fitted for walking. There are ten ſpecies ; one of which, the *epops,* hoopoe, or dung-bird, is frequently ſeen in Britain. It may be readily diſtinguiſhed from all others that viſit this iſland by its beautiful creſt, which it can erect