

An Extraordinary Case of a Fracture in the Arm. By Mr. John Barde, Surgeon in New York. Communicated by Mr. John Freke, F. R. S., Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. N^o 494, p. 397.

This fracture occurred to a lady about the 3d month of her pregnancy, in consequence of which the bones did not unite until 9 days after her delivery. From that time, in less than a month, the callus was entirely confirmed, and the patient recovered the use of her arm. This case, (adds the author,) is similar to 2 cases related by Hildanus, in which the formation of a callus, was retarded by pregnancy.

A further Account of the Libellæ or May-flies, from Mr. John Bartram of Pennsylvania, communicated by Mr. Peter Collinson, F. R. S. N^o 494, p. 400.*

The May-flies of America have no very remarkable difference from ours; excepting a few days in the fly state, they live all the year a water insect. Their bodies being replenished with an oily matter, they easily quit their husks, and rise up to the surface of the water, and disperse themselves a mile or more back in the woods, while others stay near the water.

May the 4th 1749, Mr. C. perceived many had attained wings, and were very thick spread on the bushes and grass, by the river sides. The second day after their leaving their aquatic abode they cast another skin, after which their tails are longer, and their wings drier, and more transparent. The 5th and 6th was rainy, the 7th windy; so very few came out. The 8th was cool; so few were seen: but the 9th and 10th, being warm, many swarmed late in the evening; and the 11th, 12th, 13th, they swarmed abundantly. What he calls swarming, was their gathering thick as bees, near the rivers; to lay their eggs in the water.

In their flight they mount to the tops of trees, 20 or 30 feet high: their motion is surprizing, hovering up and down, rising and falling, 7 or 8 feet at a time: this he takes to be the time and manner of their impregnation. After which they fly to the brooks, cast out their eggs, and perish immediately: their eggs sink directly to the bottom, and lodge among the mud and gravel, and may be food for some minute water animal. From their eggs proceeds a deformed grub, which subsists under water, and is food for eels, till next season, that it attains its fly state, and then is food for fish and fowl. It is remarkable, the males are black, and live several days after the females.

The reason of their being so long in coming forth this year was, the cold chilly weather: other years, in a warm season, in five days they would have performed all their functions, and disappeared.

We have two other smaller kinds, which very much resemble the former.

* See page 290 of volume ix.