

John Clarke

*FROM PREFACE TO ROHAULT'S SYSTEM
OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY
(LONDON, 1723)*

The several Editions which this Treatise has passed through, both in French and Latin, are a sufficient Testimony how acceptable and useful it has been to the World, and a just Apology for my translating it into English. I shall not therefore trouble the reader with any particular account either of the excellency of the Subject, the Abilities of the Author, or the Method he has proceeded in, but refer them all to be judged of by the Book itself: Only as to the Notes, the Reader is desired to take Notice, that therein is a full Answer to such Objections made against the Author as seem not to have any just Foundation, and a great many Things in Natural Philosophy which have been since found out by the Pains and Industry of later Philosophers, are here selected from the best Writers; and here also several things added out of the Observations of the Ancient Writers of Natural Philosophy and Natural History, where they seemed further to explain and illustrate Matters. In all which, to avoid Repetition, Gratitude demands that the Reader should know that there are a great many things owing to the learned and industrious Dr Laughton, and to the Reverend Mr Morgan. The former of which communicated a great many Things dispersed throughout the Whole Book, and corrected an abundance of Errors: and six whole dissertations are owing to the latter...

The fourth part of this work is but short, and not very perfect; wherefore it is thought more advisable to refer the Reader to later Writers of Anatomy who have handled that subject clearly and fully, than to transcribe so many Particulars. I hope the whole will be agreeable and acceptable.

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