CONVERSATIONS ON NATURAL PHILOSOPHY
IN WHICH THE ELEMENTS OF THAT SCIENCE ARE FAMILIARLY EXPLAINED, AND ADAPTED TO THE COMPREHENSION OF YOUNG PUPILS.
ILLUSTRATED WITH PLATES.

BY JANE MARCET

Contents

CONVERSATION I.
On General Properties of Bodies........................................................................................................9
Introduction
General Properties of Bodies
Impenetrability
Extension
Figure
Divisibility
Inertia
Attraction
Attraction of Cohesion
Density
Rarity
Heat
Attraction of Gravitation

CONVERSATION II.
On the Attraction of Gravity..................................................................................................................24
Attraction of Gravitation continued
Of Weight
Of the fell of Bodies
Of the resistance of the Air
Of the Ascent of Light Bodies

CONVERSATION III.
On the Laws of Motion........................................................................................................................36
Of Motion
Of the Inertia of Bodies
Of force to produce Motion
Direction of Motion
Velocity
Absolute and relative
Uniform Motion
Retarded Motion
Accelerated Motion
Velocity of Falling Bodies
Momentum
Action and Re-action equal
Elasticity of Bodies
Porosity of Bodies
Reflected Motion
Angles of Incidence and Reflection

CONVERSATION IV.
On Compound Motion

Compound Motion the result of two opposite forces
Of Circular Motion, the result of two forces, one of which confines the body to a fixed point
Centre of Motion, the point at rest while the other parts of the body move round it
Centre of Magnitude the middle of a body
Centripetal Force, that which confines a body to a fixed central point
Centrifugal Force, that which impels a body to fly from the centre
Fall of Bodies in a Parabola
Centre of Gravity, the Centre of Weight, or point about which the parts balance each other

CONVERSATION V.
On the Mechanical Powers

Of the Power of Machines
Of the Lever in General
Of the Lever of the first kind, having the Fulcrum between the Power and the weight
Of the Lever of the second kind, having the weight between the power and the Fulcrum
Of the Lever of the third kind, having the power between the Fulcrum and the Weight
Of the Pulley
Of the Wheel and Axle
Of the inclined Plane
Of the Wedge
Of the Screw

CONVERSATION VI.
ASTRONOMY
Causes of the Earth’s Annual Motion

Of the Planets, and their motion
Of the Diurnal motion of the Earth and Planets

CONVERSATION VII.
On the Planets

Of the Satellites or Moons
Gravity diminishes as the square of the Distance
Of the Solar System
Of Comets
Constellations, signs of the Zodiack
Of Copernicus, Newton, &c.

CONVERSATION VIII.
On the Earth
Of the Terrestrial Globe
Of the Figure of the Earth
Of the pendulum
Of the Variation of the Seasons, and of the Length of Days and Nights
Of the causes of the Heat of Summer
Of Solar, Siderial, and Equal or Mean Time

CONVERSATION IX.
On the Moon
Of the Moon’s Motion
Phases of the Moon
Eclipses of the Moon
Eclipses of Jupiter’s Moons
Of the Latitude and Longitude
Of the transits of the inferior Planets
Of the Tides

CONVERSATION X.
HYDROSTATICKS.
On the Mechanical Properties of Fluids
Definition of a Fluid
Distinction between Fluids and Liquids
Of Non-Elastic Fluids scarcely susceptible of Compression
Of the Cohesion of Fluids
Of their Gravitation
Of their Equilibrium
Of the Pressure
Of Specifick Gravity
Of the Specifick Gravity of Bodies heavier than Water
Of those of the same weight as Water
Of those lighter than Water
Of the Specifick Gravity of Fluids

CONVERSATION XI.
Of Springs, Fountains, &c.
Of the Ascent of Vapour and the Formation of Clouds
Of the Formation and Fall of Rain, &c.
Of the Formation of Springs
Of Rivers and Lakes
Of Fountains

CONVERSATION XII.
PNEUMATICKS.
On the Mechanical Properties of Air
Of the spring and Elasticity of the Air
Of the Weight of the Air
Experiments with the Air Pump
Of the Barometer
Mode of Weighing Air
Specific Gravity of Air
Of Pumps
Description of the Sucking Pump
Description of the Forcing Pump

CONVERSATION XIII.
On Wind and Sound
Of Wind in General
Of the Trade Wind
Of the Periodical Trade Winds
Of the Aerial Tides
Of Sound in General
Of Sonorous Bodies
Of Musical sounds
Of Concord or Harmony, and Melody

CONVERSATION XIV.
On Optics
Of Luminous, Transparent, and Opaque Bodies
Of the Radiation of Light
Of Shadows
Of the Reflection of Light
Opaque Bodies seen only by Reflected Light
Vision Explained
Camera Obscura
Image of Objects on the Retina

CONVERSATION XV.
On the Angle of Vision, and Reflection of Mirrors
Angle of Vision
Reflection of Plain Mirrors
Reflection of Convex Mirrors
Reflection of Concave Mirrors

CONVERSATION XVI.
On Refraction and Colours................................................................. .................. 211
Transmission of Light by Transparent Bodies
Refraction
Refraction of the Atmosphere
Refraction of a Lens
Refraction of the Prism
Of the Colours of Rays of Light
Of the Colours of Bodies

CONVERSATION XVII.
OPTICKS
On the Structure of the Eye, and Optical Instruments............................... 229
Description of the Eye
Of the Image on the Retina
Refraction of the Humours of the Eye
Of the Use of Spectacles
Of the Single Microscope
Of the Double Microscope
Of the Solar Microscope
Magick Lantern
Refracting Telescope
Reflecting Telescope

A Dictionary of Philosophical Terms......................................................... 241

Direction to the Binder.
The Plates, with the exception of the Frontispiece, which is to face the Title Page, to be put at the close of the volume, in their order of being numbered.