



The telescope and microscope

Thomas Dick

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This historic book may have numerous typos, missing text or index. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1852. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... PART II. THE MICROSCOPE AND ITS OBJECTS. A Microscope is an optical instrument, by which very small objects are magnified. By means of it many discoveries have been made, which are, in some respects, even more wonderful than those of the telescope. We naturally associate ideas of magnitude with power; but to discover the infinite in the invisible, not because it is remote, but because it is too diminutive to be discerned, baffles all our attempts to "find out" Him whose greatness is as unsearchable in the minute as in the mighty. Invention of the microscope.--The microscope appears to have been invented not long after the telescope, and it is probable that the invention of the one instrument led to that of the other. All that we can be assured of is, that microscopes were first used in Germany, about the year 1621, or nearly twelve years after the invention of the telescope. According to Borellus, who gives the most particular details of its invention, we are indebted to Zachary Jansen and his son for the microscope. Others, however, claim the honor of inventing it, particularly Cornelius Drebell, a man of science and ingenuity, who invented the thermometer; and Fontana, who professed that he made the discovery in 1618, although he published no account till 1646. Borellus informs us that the Jansens presented the first microscopes which they made to Prince Maurice and Albert, Archduke of Austria. A minute description has been given of these instruments, from which it is evident they were either compound microscopes, or telescopes adapted to the examination of near objects by a different arrangement of the glasses. In No. 42 of the "Philosophical Transactions" of the Royal Society for 1668, we have an account of a microscope made by Eustachio Divini, at Rome, whi...

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