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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To Illuminate the Surface of the Water

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Chemical change in a fair Lady's Complexion.

It is well known that white oxide of bismuth, under the name of *pearl white*, is used as a cosmetic, by those of the fair sex who wish to become fairer. A lady thus painted was sitting in a lecture room, where chemistry being the subject, water impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen gas (Harrogate water) was handed round for inspection. On smelling this liquid, the lady in question became suddenly *black in the face!* Every one was of course alarmed at this sudden *chemical* change; but the lecturer explaining the cause of the phenomenon, the lady received no further injury than a salutary practical lesson to rely more on mental than personal and artificial beauty in future.

To Illuminate the Surface of the Water.

Wet a piece of fine loaf sugar with phosphorized ether, and throw it into a basin of water; the surface of the water will become luminous in the dark, and, by gently blowing upon it, phosphorescent undulations will be formed, which illuminate the air above the fluid to a considerable distance. In winter, the water must be rendered blood-warm. If the phosphorized ether be applied to the hand, or other warm objects (which may be done with safety) it renders them luminous in the dark.