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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Well of Fire

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The Well of Fire.

Add gradually one ounce, by measure, of sulphuric acid, to five or six ounces of water in an earthenware basin; and add to it also, gradually, about three quarters of an ounce of granulated zinc. A rapid production of hydrogen gas will instantly take place. Then add, from time to time, a few pieces of phosphorus of the size of a pea. A multitude of gas bubbles will be produced, which will fire, on the surface of the effervescing liquid; the whole surface of the liquid will become luminous, and fire balls, with jets of fire, will dart from the bottom through the fluid with great rapidity, and a hissing noise.

To produce fire by the mixture of two cold Liquids.

Take half a pound of pure dry nitre, in powder, put it into a retort that is quite dry; add an equal quantity of highly rectified oil of vitriol, and distilling the mixture in a moderate sand heat, it will produce a liquor like a yellowish fume; this, when caught in a dry receiver, is *Glauber's Spirits of Nitre*; probably the preparation under that name, may be obtained at the chemist's, which will of course save much time and trouble.

You then put a drachm of distilled oil of cloves, turpentine, or carraways, in a glass vessel; and if you add an equal quantity, or rather more, of the

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