

# **Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

## **The young man's book of amusement**

**Halifax, 1848**

The Lead Tree

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120)

*Two cold Liquids when mixed become boiling hot.*

Put into a thin phial two parts (by measure) of sulphuric acid, and add to it one part of water : on agitating or stirring them together, the mixture instantly becomes hot, and acquires a temperature above that of boiling water.

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*The Silver Tree.*

Dissolve an ounce of fine silver in three ounces of strong aqua fortis, in a glass bottle. When the silver is dissolved, pour the aqua fortis into another glass vessel (a decanter will be best), with seven or eight ounces of mercury, to which add a quart of common water ; to the whole add your dissolved silver, and let it remain untouched.

In a few days the mercury will appear covered with a number of little branches of a silver colour. This appearance will increase for a month or two, and will remain after the mercury is entirely dissolved.

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*The Lead Tree.*

A more modern invention, and an easier method by far than the above is the following :

To a piece of zinc fasten a wire, crooked in the

form of the worm of a still; let the other end of the worm be thrust through a cork. You then pour spring water into a phial or decanter, to which you add a small quantity of sugar of lead; thrust the zinc into the bottle, and with the cork at the end of the wire fasten it up. In a few days the tree will begin to grow, and produce a most beautiful effect.

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*To produce beautiful Fire Works in miniature.*

Put half a drachm of solid phosphorus into a large pint Florence flask; holding it slanting, that the phosphorus may not break the glass. Pour upon it a gill and a half of water, and place the whole over a tea-kettle lamp, or any common tin lamp, filled with spirit of wine. Light the wick, which should be almost half an inch from the flask; and as soon as the water is heated, streams of fire will issue from the water by starts, resembling sky-rockets; some particles will adhere to the sides of the glass, representing stars; and will frequently display brilliant rays. These appearances will continue at times till the water begins to simmer, when immediately a curious aurora borealis begins, and gradually ascends, till it collects to a pointed flame; when it has continued half a minute, blow out the flame of the lamp, and the point that was formed will rush down, forming beautiful illuminated clouds of fire, rolling over each other for some time, which, disappearing, a splendid hemisphere of stars presents itself: after waiting a

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