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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Another Cheap Hydrometer

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

the index. On this principle, the Dutch toys, called weather houses, are made; one end of the index supports a small image of a man, and the other that of a woman; the former appears, or is brought out in wet weather, and the latter in fair weather.

Powerful Musical Instrument.

Take a common poker, and tie a tape on it at top, so that both ends of the tape are left at liberty; these ends must be rolled round the first finger of each hand, and then with these fingers stopping the ears close, strike the poker thus suspended against any body. The depth of the tone which this odd musical instrument returns will be amazing. The deepest and largest bell will not equal it.

Another Cheap Hydrometer

The following is the most lasting and convenient mode of constructing an instrument of this kind.

Take a very nice balance, and place in it a sponge or other body, which easily imbibes moisture, and let it be equalibrio, with a weight hung at the other end of the beam. Now, if the air become moist, the sponge becoming heavier will preponderate; if dry, the sponge will be raised up. The balance may be contrived two ways; by either having the pin in the

middle of the beam, with a slender tongue, a foot and a half long, pointing to the division on the arched plate fitted to it; or the other extremity of the beam may be made so long, as to describe a larger arch on a board placed for the purpose.

To prepare the sponge, it may be necessary to wash it in water, and when dry, in water or vinegar in which sal-amoniac or salt of tartar has been dissolved, and let it dry again: then it is fit to be used.

Very beautiful Artificial Petrifications.

Put into a retort a quantity of pounded fluor spar, with a few bits of broken glass, and pour upon them some sulphuric acid; fluoric acid gas will be disengaged, holding silex in solution. The subjects that you wish to resemble petrifications must now be moistened with water, and placed in a vessel connected with the neck of the retort. The fluoric acid gas will be absorbed by the moisture adhering to the substances, and the silex will be precipitated upon them like a sort of hoar frost, which will have a very beautiful appearance, and is very durable.

Singular Illusion with the Fingers.

A very singular illusion may be produced, that has its origin in the touch.

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