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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To make a shilling turn upon its edge on the point of a needle

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To make a shilling turn upon its edge on the point of a needle.



Take a wine or porter bottle, and insert in the mouth a cork, with a needle in a perpendicular position. Then cut a nick in the face of another cork, in which fix a shilling; and into the same cork stick two common table-forks, opposite to each other, with the handles inclining downwards, as will be perfectly understood by consulting the annexed engraving.

If the rim of the shilling be then placed upon the point of the needle, it may be turned round, without any risk of falling off, as the centre of gravity is below the centre of suspension.

Easy method of making a Rain Gauge.

A very simple rain gauge, and one which will answer all practical purposes, consists of a copper funnel, the area of whose opening is exactly ten square inches:

this funnel is fixed in a bottle, and the quantity of rain caught is ascertained by multiplying the weight in ounces by 173, which gives the depth in inches and parts of an inch. In fixing these gauges, care must be taken that the rain may have free access to them: hence the tops of buildings are usually the best places. When the quantities of rain collected in them at different places, are compared, the instruments ought to be fixed at the same heights above the ground at both places, because at different heights the quantities are always different, even at the same place.

To recover a Fly after being drowned several hours.

A fly drowned in water, wine, ale, or beer, and so thoroughly dead, being laid overhead in chalk crushed very fine, or warm ashes, (but they must not be burning, or very hot,) will recover and live again.

To put a Ring through your Cheek, and then to bring it on a Stick.

You must have two rings exactly alike, one of which has a notch which admits your cheek. When you have exhibited the perfect ring, you change it for the other, and privately slip the notch over one side of your mouth; in the meantime, you slip the whole ring on your stick, hiding it with

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