The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Magnetic Wand

urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120

To shew the effect of the Magnet Poles on each other.

Fix two touched needles horizontally on two separate pieces of cork floating in water; then place the pieces of cork beside each other, the needle being in a parallel position, with the poles of the same name together, (north or south) and they will mutually repel each other; but if the poles of contrary name be placed together, they will draw each other nearer

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The Magnetic Wand.

Bore a hole, three-tenths of an inch diameter, through a round stick of wood; or get a hollow cane about eight inches long, and half an inch thick. Provide a small steel rod, and let it be very strongly impregnated with a good magnet; this rod is to be put in the hole you have bored through the wand, and closed at each end by two small ends of ivory that screw on, different in their shapes, that you may better distinguish the poles of the magnetic bar.

When you present the north pole of this wand to the south pole of a magnetic needle, suspended on a pivot, or to a light body swimming on the surface of the water (in which you have placed a magnetic bar,) that body will approach the wand, and present that end which contains the south end of the bar; but if you present the north or south end of the wand, to

the north or south end of the needle, it will recede from it.

The Learned Swan.

Have a large marble or china bowl, painted inside the rim with the letters of the alphabet; a small swan in which is concealed a steel or iron pin, is set to swim in the bowl, and on being desired, will select any letters, say those which compose your name—to effect this, the performer of the trick must have a magnet in his pocket, by means of which, as he moves round the table, the swan will be attracted to every letter at which it is required to stop.

The Mysterious Watch.

You desire any person to lend you his watch, and ask him if it will go when laid on the table. He will, no doubt, say it will; in which case, you place it over the end of the magnet, and it will presently stop. You then mark the precise spot where you placed the watch, and moving the point of the magnet, you give the watch to another person, and desire him to make the experiment; in which he not succeeding, you give it to a third (at the same time replacing the magnet) and he will immediately perform it.

This experiment cannot be effected, unless you use a very strongly impregnated magnetic bar, (which