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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

The Magnetical Table

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does not vibrate one way or the other, the loaded money is not in the box. Two points remain, upon which you may deceive yourself, viz. first, your needle must be very sensible, or the influence will be too inconsiderable to effect any change in it; second, take good care that your adversary (or person acted on) does not change your piece for another, and thus defeat the accomplishment of your purpose.

*To suspend a Needle in the Air by means of the
Magnetic Fluid.*

Place a magnet on a stand to raise it a little above the table, then bring a small sewing needle, containing a thread, within a little of the magnet, keeping hold of the thread to prevent the needle from attaching itself to the magnet. The needle, in endeavouring to fly to the magnet, and being prevented by the thread, will remain curiously suspended in the air.

The Magnetical Table.

Under the top of a common table, place a magnet that turns on a pivot, fix a board to cover it, so that it may not be discovered. At one end of the table, secretly place a tin, that communicates with the magnet, and by which it may be placed in several different positions. Strew some steel filings, or very small

nails, over that part of the table where the magnet is, and requesting the loan of a knife or key, apply it to the filings, and it will have the same effect on the larger ends of these as a magnet would. Then placing your hand as if carelessly on the pin at the bottom of the table, alter the position of the magnet, and giving the key or knife to any one you will disappoint, he will be unable to perform the experiment as you have done; changing the pin's influence again, you may shew that you have these things at command.

CHEMISTRY.

FOR many of the experiments mentioned in this book, useful apparatus may be made with a common Florence oil-flask, divided into two parts by means of a thread, previously dipped in oil of turpentine, tied round the middle and ignited; the upper part will make a good funnel, the other will contain chemical ingredients, which may require to be held over a flame.

To Procure Hydrogen Gas.

Provide a phial with a cork stopper, through which is thrust a piece of tobacco-pipe. Into the phial put

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