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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Exploding Gas Bubbles

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ignited, and diffused through them, and which, in ordinary flames, as of gas, tallow, wax, oil, &c. consists of finely divided charcoal.

Inflamed Soap Bubbles.

With a pair of bellows, half fill a bladder, having a stop-cock, with common air, and fill the other half with hydrogen gas: screw a brass tobacco-pipe to the stop-cock, and dip it into a basin of soap-lather. When the bladder is pressed, bubbles will rush out, to which apply the flame of a candle; and they will explode with great violence. Let the bubbles be detached from the bowl of the pipe, before they are inflamed, or else the flame may rush into the pipe, and burst the bladder.

Exploding Gas Bubbles.

Put a small quantity of phosphorus and some potash, dissolved in water, into a retort; apply the flame of a candle or lamp to the bottom of the retort, until the contents boil. The phosphuretted hydrogen gas will then rise, and may be collected in receivers. But if instead of receiving the gas into a jar, you let it simply ascend into water, the bubbles of gas will then explode in succession, as they reach the surface of the water, and a beautiful white smoke will be formed,

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which rises slowly and majestically to the ceiling. If bits of phosphorus are kept some hours in hydrogen gas, phosphorized hydrogen gas is produced; and if bubbles of this gas are thrown up into the receiver of an air pump, previously filled with oxygen gas, a brilliant blueish flame will immediately fill the jar.

To Procure Oxygen Gas.

Put a small quantity of the black oxide of manganese into a tubulated retort, and pour upon it as much strong sulphuric acid as will convert it into a thin paste. Support the retort upon a wire stand, and let the open end of it dip under the edge of the glass vessel which is placed on the shelf of the pneumatic-trough full of water to receive the gas; then apply the heat of a lamp to the retort, and the gas will continue to form as long as the manganese contains any of it.

To Exhibit the Combustion of Charcoal in Oxygen Gas.

Take a small piece of red-hot charcoal, and fasten it to the end of a copper wire, then let it down in a jar of oxygen gas, and the appearance will be very beautiful; for the charcoal burns with great splendour and throws out sparks in all directions.