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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Pleasing Optical Appearance

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dually loosing itself in obscurity ; and be found well worth the pains bestowed on its construction.

Pleasing Optical Appearance.

If a soap-bubble be blown up, and set under a glass, so that the motion of the air may not affect it, as the water glides down the sides, and the top grows thinner, several colours will successively appear at the top, and spread themselves from thence in rings down the sides of the bubble, till they vanish in the same order in which they appeared. At length a black spot appears at the top, and spreads till the bubble bursts.

The thinnest substance ever observed is the aqueous film of the soap bubble previous to bursting ; yet it is capable of reflecting a faint image of a candle, or the sun. Hence its thickness must correspond with what Sir Isaac Newton calls the *beginning of black*, which appears in water at the thickness of the seven hundred and fifty thousandth part of an inch.

Another.

A convex and concave lens, of nearly the same curvature, being pressed closely together, exhibit rings of colours about the points where they touch. Between the colours there are dark rings, and, when

the glasses
spot is dark.

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