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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Electric Spider

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Electrical Automata.

If a metal plate be attached to the prime conductor of the electrical machine, and a similar plate be supported by a foot beneath, small figures, made of pith or paper, will readily leap from the one to the other continuously; and to effect this amusing dance, it will only be necessary to turn the cylinder of the electrical machine rapidly. A representation of this simple apparatus is seen at Fig. 9.

Electric Spider.

Insulate two bodies, and charge one of them plus, the other minus. Then suspend between them, by a silken string, an artificial spider, of which the body may be cork and the legs and fibres of feathers; the spider will move from one of the insulated bodies to the other, till their charge is equalized.

To Exhibit Electrical Attraction on a Number of Objects at once.

Place a cap or covering of metal upon the two extremities of a glass tube four or five inches long, and enclose in the tube some saw-dust or pith-balls; then charge one of the plates plus and the other minus,