

**Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**The young man's book of amusement**

**Halifax, 1848**

Another

[urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:bsz:31-100120)

wire *c* is fixed in the prime conductor, and so soon as it is electrified, the flies begin to turn with great rapidity, each in a contrary direction to that of its point, and in the dark the course of each fly will be marked by a line of fire. With a sufficiently powerful machine, the number of flies may be considerable, and by varying their sizes, distances, and position, an interesting spectacle will be produced.

The flies, in this experiment, turn the same way, whether positively or negatively electrified. This must be evident, when the cause of their motion is considered. When they are positively electrified, the electric fluid issuing from the points strikes the air, and causes their motion in a contrary direction to the points: and when they are electrified negatively, the stream of electricity which they solicit, impels them in the same direction. Under an exhausted receiver no motion is produced, because the medium which still remains is not dense enough for the electric fluid to act upon with so much force, as to overcome the friction of the flies upon their centres. Also, under an insulated receiver, containing only common air, the motion soon ceases, because the air and the glass soon become so much electrified, that the electric fluid ceases to escape from the points.

---

*Another.*

On the top of a finely-pointed wire, rising perpendicularly from the conductor, let another wire, sharp-

ened at each  
centre. If  
horizontally  
electrified,  
of the air  
the points.  
and the fig  
a hare, sta  
as to turn  
if in pursu  
greater var  
the numbe

Let a pe  
wood, or u  
communic  
wheel he  
forming pa  
emit spark  
standing on  
If the ele  
iron, into a  
will be im  
wick or thr  
a train of gu  
magazine, or  
iron, and at  
chief he is do

ened at each end, be made to move freely, as on a centre. If it be well balanced, and the points bent horizontally, in opposite directions, it will, when electrified, turn very swiftly round, by the re-action of the air against the current which flows from off the points. These points may be nearly concealed, and the figures of men and horses, with hounds, and a hare, stag, or fox, may be placed upon the wires, so as to turn round with them, when they will appear as if in pursuit. The chase may be diversified, and a greater variety of figures put upon them, by increasing the number of wires proceeding from the same centre.

---

*The Unconscious Incendiary.*

Let a person stand upon a stool made of baked wood, or upon a cake of wax, and hold a chain which communicates with the branch. On turning the wheel he will become electrified; his whole body forming part of the prime conductor; and he will emit sparks whenever he is touched by a person standing on the floor.

If the electrified person put his finger, or a rod of iron, into a dish containing warm spirits of wine, it will be immediately in a blaze: and, if there be a wick or thread in the spirit, that communicates with a train of gunpowder, he may be made to blow up a magazine, or set a city on fire, with a piece of cold iron, and at the same time be ignorant of the mischief he is doing.