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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Electrified Air

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and then to the ground by a chain. The brilliancy of this is equal to that of the spiral tubes.

Electrified Air.

Fix two or three pointed needles into the prime conductor of an electrical machine, and set the glass in motion so as to keep the prime conductor electrified for several minutes. If now, an electrometer be brought within the air that is contiguous to the prime conductor, it will exhibit signs of electricity, and this air will continue electrified for some time, even after the machine has been removed into another room. The air, in this case, is electrified positively; it may be negatively electrified by fixing the needles in the negative conductor while insulated, and making a communication between the prime conductor, and the table, by means of a chain or other conducting substance. The air of a room may be electrified in another way. Charge a large jar, and insulate it; then connect two or more sharp pointed wires or needles, with the knob of the jar, and connect the outside coating of the jar with the table. If the jar be charged positively, the air of the room will soon become positively electrified likewise; but if the jar be charged negatively, the electricity communicated by it to the air, will also become negative. A charged jar being held in one hand, and the flame of an insulated candle held in the other being brought near the knob of the jar, will also produce the same effect.