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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Galvanic Shock

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

Another.

Place a silver tea-spoon as high as possible between the gums and the upper lip, and a bar of zinc between the under lip: on bringing the extremities into contact, a very vivid sensation, resembling a flash of light, will be perceived. It is singular, that this light is equally vivid in the dark with the strongest light, and whether the eyes be shut or open.

Another.

Place a cup of silver, filled with water, on a plate of zinc, standing upon a table, and touch the water with the tip of the tongue, it will be tasteless as long as the zinc plate is not touched, for the body does not form a voltaic circle with the metals. Moisten well the hands, and lay hold of the plate of zinc, whilst the tongue is brought to touch the water, a peculiar sensation, and an acid taste will be immediately experienced.

Galvanic Shock.

Several persons may receive the shock together, by joining hands, in the same manner as in receiving the shock from a Leyden phial. Their hands should

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be well moistened; but the strength of the shock diminishes as it proceeds, in consequence of which the last person feels it much less violently than the first. After receiving the galvanic shock, a slight numbness of the part that has been exposed to it remains for some time.

The galvanic shock may also be conveniently given by immersing the hands or the feet into vessels containing a solution of salt, and bringing wires from each end of the battery into the liquid. If any other part of the body is intended to be operated upon, a sponge, moistened with salt-water and fastened to a metal plate connected with one end of the battery, may be applied to the part, and the hand or foot put into a vessel of the same liquid, connected by a wire with the other end of the battery. Small bits of sponge, or bits of leather, may be fastened to the end of the connecting wires, and made more or less moist as the delicacy of the part may require.

The Decomposition of Water by Galvanism.

The most simple mode of performing this experiment, is to bring the wires coming from each end of the battery into a vessel of water. A profusion of bubbles of gas will appear to be given out from each wire, as far as they are immersed in the liquid. The nearer the wires are brought together, so as not to touch, the more rapidly the decomposition goes on. The gas produced from the wire coming from the