# The young man's book of amusement

## Halifax, 1848

New Method of Congealing Water

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pump. We, however, will not stain the pages of this little work, by recommending any such species of cruelty, which in many instances can merely gratify curiosity: but as our readers might like to read the effect on animals, we extract from the learned Boyle, an account of his experiment with a viper.

He took a newly-caught viper, and shutting it up in a small receiver, extracted the air. At first, upon the air being drawn away, the viper began to swell: a short time after, it gaped and opened its jaws; it then resumed its former lankness, and began to move up and down within the receiver, as if to seek for air. After a while, it foamed a little, leaving the foam sticking to the inside of the glass: soon after, the body and neck became prodigiously swelled, and blistered on its back. Within an hour and a half from the time the receiver was exhausted, the distended viper moved, being yet alive, though its jaws remained quite stretched: its black tongue reached beyond the mouth, which had also become black in the inside; in this situation it continued for three hours; but on the air being re-admitted, the viper's mouth was presently closed, and soon after opened again; and these motions continued some time, as if there were still some remains of life.

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### *New Method of Congealing Water.*

A celebrated gentleman gives the following account of his interesting experiment on this subject:

—into a metal vase half filled with water, I poured very gently an equal quantity of ether, so that no mixture might take place in the two liquids. The vase was placed under the receiver of an air-pump, which was so fixed upon its support, as to remain quite steady when the air was pumped out. At the first stroke of the piston the ether became in a state of ebullition, it was evaporated in less than a minute, and the water remained converted into ice. The experiment was made in an apartment, the temperature of which was 16 deg. R.

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*Experiments with Sparrows.*

Count Morozzo placed successively several full-grown sparrows under a glass receiver, inverted over water. It was filled with atmospheric air, and afterwards with vital air. He found

| First.—That in *atmospheric* air | HOURS. | MIN. |
|---|---|---|
| The first sparrow lived | 3 .. | 0 |
| The second sparrow lived | 0 .. | 3 |
| The third sparrow lived | 0 .. | 1 |

The water rose in the vessels eight lines during the life of the first; four during the life of the second; and the third produced no absorption.

| Second.—In *vital* air or *oxygen*. | HOURS. | MIN |
|---|---|---|
| The first sparrow lived | 5 .. | 23 |
| The second | 2 .. | 10 |
| The third | 1 .. | 30 |
| The fourth | 1 .. | 10 |