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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Tantalus's Cup

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

Common water.....	1.000
Bees-wax.....	0.955
Linseed oil.....	0.932
Oil, olive.....	0.913
Spirit of turpentine.....	0.874
Rect. spirit of wine.....	0.856
Cork.....	0.240
Air.....	0.004

Experiment with the Syphon.

If one leg of a syphon be immersed in a vessel of water, and the other leg hang out of it, in such manner that the lower end be below the surface of the water; on opening both the orifices at the same instant, the water will be found to flow out at the lower orifice, till its surface has sunk down to the orifice of the leg in the water.

Tantalus's Cup.

Several entertaining deceptions have been practised by means of the Syphon. One of the most usual is that of Tantalus's Cup, but the explanation of which is not necessary here, as its operation will be evident at the first view. It is usual to conceal the syphon in the figure of a man representing Tantalus; and when the cup is filled with water as high as his

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mouth, that is a little above the curve of the syphon, the latter beginning to act, at length discharges the whole contents of the cup. Similar deceptions have been practised by concealing the syphon in the handle of a drinking vessel.

ACCOUSTICS.

The Talking Busts.

PROCURE two busts of plaster of Paris, place them on pedestals on the opposite sides of a room. Let a thin tube, of an inch diameter, pass from the ear of one head through the pedestal, under the floor, and go up to the mouth of the other; taking care that the end of the tube that is next the ear of the one head, be considerably larger than that end which comes to the mouth of the other.

Now when a person speaks quite low into the ear of one bust, the sound is reverberated through the length of the tube, and will be distinctly heard by any one placing his ear to the mouth of the other. It is not necessary that the tube should come to the lips of the bust. If there be two tubes, one going to the ear, and the other to the mouth of each head,