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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Curious Change of Colour

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becomes filled with dense white vapours ; and when the ebullition is suffered to go on, the fumes gradually disappear, and a lambent green flame makes its appearance with an undulatory motion at the orifice of the flask, and continues as long as the water is kept boiling. When the lamp is withdrawn, the phosphorescent flame gradually rushes down, and the internal surface of the vessel exhibits, in a dark place, illuminated clouds rolling over each other. When the heat is again applied to the flask, the flame re-appears, and again vanishes, and descends into the body of the vessel the moment the water ceases to boil ; and these appearances may be repeated as long as any water is left in the flask.

Curious Change of Colour.

Put into an ounce phial a slip of copper scraped bright, fill up the phial with liquid ammonia, and cork it air-tight. No apparent change will take place ; but if the bottle be left open for some hours, and then be closed, a solution of the colour is affected, which is absolutely colourless, and turns blue on re-opening the bottle, beginning at the surface, and gradually extending downwards through the mass. Again, if this blue solution has not been too long exposed to the air, and fresh pieces of copper be put in, stopping the bottle again, the solution is deprived of all its tinge, and recovers its colour by the admission of air ; and this effect may be produced repeatedly.