

**Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**The young man's book of amusement**

**Halifax, 1848**

To measure the Focal Distance of a Globe of Water and of Glass

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*How to Write in the Dark.*

Two planes of ebony, of equal length and breadth, similar to a parallel ruler, and joined at each end by racks, the side of which being graduated to the width of the line intended, will serve as a certain guide, and by use of this instrument, a blind person, or a person in the dark, may write with the greatest accuracy. If ivory tablets or a slate is used, a fine wire drawn with a steel point may be readily felt by the point of the pencil.

*To obtain exquisite Skeletons of Small Animals.*

Put any small subject, such as a mouse, frog, (if a bird strip it of its feathers,) in a box perforated with a number of holes; let it be properly distended to prevent the parts from collapsing, or being crushed together by the pressure of the earth. Then place the box and its contents in an ant-hole; and in a few days it will have become an exquisitely beautiful and perfect skeleton, by the ants having consumed every part of it except the bones and ligaments.

*To measure the Focal Distance of a Globe of Water and of Glass.*

Take a hollow globe of glass, or, instead of it, a thin round flask or decanter, and making a moderate

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round hole about an inch diameter, in a piece of brown paper, paste it on one side of the belly of the decanter; and having filled it with water, hold the covered side to the sun, that the perpendicular rays may pass through the middle of the water, and the emergent rays will be collected to a focus, whose nearest distance from the decanter will be equal to the semi-diameter of the belly of it; as will appear by receiving the rays upon a paper, held at that distance. That this effect is owing to the water, and not to the glass, will be evident by emptying the decanter; for the light that passes then through the hole, will be as broad as the hole itself, at all distances of the paper from the decanter. If a similar experiment be tried, with a solid globe or ball of glass, the distance of the focus from the nearest part of the ball will be one quarter of its diameter.

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*Phosphorescence of Wood.*

Dr. Carradori, on a paper on the phosphorescence of wood, asserts that phosphoric wood acquires by putrefaction the property of attracting and absorbing light, and of retaining it mechanically. To make it shine, it is sufficient to expose it for some time to the sun. A bit of wood, which the author examined, continued to shine under oil for two whole days. In that situation, says Dr. Carradori, it was not in contact with oxygen gas.