

**Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

**Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe**

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

**Halifax, 1848**

Pearls

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

like quantity of quite another colour; then another and another, until the whole egg is nearly covered. Wrap it in a cloth, and boil three or four hours, and you shall have the impression of the ribbands upon the egg, in a kind of plaid pattern. They will last many years.

---

*Pearls.*

The Chinese are reported to have constructed natural pearls (if the antithetical term may be used) by means of oysters; and we see no reason why the same way may not be adopted in our country; if indeed, as has been shrewdly suspected, the practice does not already prevail secretly. Buffon had long ago suggested, and (in 1773) when this information reached Europe, that the puncturing of oysters, while yet alive, might produce pearls, and we know that they were often found in this shell-fish on our own coasts. But two characters belonged to the *naturalist*: he was a visionary—a fabulist also; and he left us in the dark, as to the secret of *puncturing*, which the industry and discrimination of the present day has fully developed. *The process*, which is worthy of trial, whenever it can be put in execution, consists in taking the oysters alive, and having perforated holes with a wire or awl, so as not to hurt vitality, a small iron wire is to be introduced, having knobs at a small distance from each other, formed probably of knots tied in the wire. The oysters are

then to be replaced in their beds, and by the time the *season* comes round again, a concretion of pearly matter will be found to have covered the knobs of wire, which will become more perfect and larger the longer the oysters are suffered to remain.

The coasts of Dorsetshire, where the oyster-shells arrive at a great size, and the south-west coasts of Ireland, offer the fairest harvests to this new pearl-fishery.

---

*To make Pomatum of Water and Wax.*

Water and wax are two substances that do not readily unite together; therefore, to those who witness the following process, without knowing the cause, it will have the appearance of something marvellous. Into a new glazed earthen pot, put six ounces of river water and two ounces of white wax, in which you must previously conceal a strong dose of salt of tartar. If the whole be then exposed to a considerable degree of heat, it will assume the consistence of pomatum, and may be used as such.

---

*Iron Transformed into Copper.*

Dissolve blue vitriol in water, till the water is well impregnated with it; and immerse into the solution small plates of iron, or coarse iron filings. These will be attacked and dissolved by the acid of the vitriol,

while the c  
will sink, a  
dissolved.  
solving, it v  
cles of copp

Art

Lay the fi  
holds out, or  
dry; then w  
ers a 'sash-  
remove, whi  
lodge on the  
dry, take a l  
much as just  
it, allowing n  
set it aside in  
eight-and-fort  
the bronze.

The bronze,  
may be found s  
metals, and sho  
wool. After  
figure, let it sta  
dry brush, rub  
from the point  
figure: it will  
possess the qua  
Brass being