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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Varnish for Silk, wick renders it impervious to Water or Air

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multiplied by 5, the product will be 45; to which if we add 3, the number of the points on the other die, it will make 48. Then if 25 be thrown out of this number, the remainder is 23; the first figure of which 2, is the number of points of the first die, and the second figure, 3, the number of the other.

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*Varnish for Silk, which renders it impervious to
Water or Air.*

Take of linseed oil, and add to it for every pint two ounces of sugar of lead, and three ounces of litharge; boil until these ingredients are dissolved. Then, to a half pint of the drying oil, (as we will now consider it,) add a pound of bird-lime, and in an iron pot of a gallon measure, let it boil gently over a slow charcoal fire, until the bird-lime ceases to make a crackling noise. Then pour upon it two pints and a half of drying oil, and boil it about an hour longer, stirring it often with an iron or wooden *spatula*. As the varnish, in boiling, swells much, the pot should then be removed from the fire, and be again replaced when the swelling subsides. While boiling, it should be occasionally examined, in order to ascertain whether it has boiled enough: for this purpose, take some of the varnish upon the blade of a large knife, and after rubbing the blade of another knife upon it, separate the knives; and when, on their separation, the varnish begins to form threads between the two knives, it has boiled enough, and should be removed

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from the fire. When it is almost cold, add nearly about an equal quantity of spirits of turpentine; mix both well together, and let the mass rest till the next day. Then having warmed it a little, strain and bottle it; if too thick, add more spirits of turpentine.

N. B. This varnish should be laid upon the silk when perfectly dry, in a lukewarm state; a thin coat of it upon one side, and, about twelve hours after, two other coats should be laid on, one on each side; and in twenty-four hours the silk may be used.

Method of Preserving Sea Plants.

These grow on the rocks from which the sea occasionally recedes; they are termed *fuci*, and when dried and preserved, are exceedingly beautiful; the *curious*, therefore, and especially those who prosecute the study of botany, must be anxious to know the best method of preserving them, without destroying their colour and beauty. The following is recommended by M. Mauduyt:—Take a sheet of paper, or rather of pasteboard, and cover it with varnish on both sides, and having rowed in a boat to the rock where the *fuci* abounds, plunge your varnished paper into the water, and detaching the *fuci*, receive it upon the paper, agitate the paper gently in the water, that the plant may be properly spread over it, and lift them up together softly out of the water, then fix down with pins the strong stalks, that they may not be displaced, and leave the plant lying upon