

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

To Prepare a Hortus Siccus

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

replete with colouring matter, which must be expressed by pounding in a mortar; after which the liquid thus acquired is to be boiled about a quarter of an hour. Six pints of water may be well tinged for dyeing by a single ounce of the expressed fluid. This being strained, the silk, cotton, &c. intended to be dyed, must be immersed and boiled in it for about fifteen or twenty minutes, when fine silk in particular, if it be afterwards passed through soft soap water, will appear of a bright golden hue, equal in lustre to that of the silk hitherto imported from China at a great expense, for imitating gold embroidery. In short, every sort of stuff retains a fine yellow colour; but it is, of course, less bright on linen and cotton. Nor is the use of this vegetable substance confined to dyeing, since it has been ascertained, that the yellow extract which it yields is applicable to the purposes of painting both in oil and in water colours.

— — —

To Prepare a Hortus Siccus.

This is a Latin term, signifying "dry garden," inasmuch as specimens of all sorts of plants may be thus preserved, in order to have recourse to them upon future occasions, when botany is pursued as a science in-doors. The value of such a collection is evident, since a thousand minutæ may be preserved in the well dried specimens of plants, which the most accurate engraver would have omitted.

Among the different methods adopted by botanists

for obtaining a hortus siccus, the following suggested by the ingenious Mr. Whately, appears to be the most practicable.

He directs those who intend to follow his plan, previously to procure—1. A strong oak box of the same size and shape as those employed for packing up tin plates—2. A quantity of fine sifted sand, sufficient to fill the box—3. A considerable number of pieces of pliant paper, from one to four inches square; and, 4. Some small flat leaden weights, and a few small bound books.

The plant is first to be cleared from the soil as well as the decayed leaves, and then laid on the inside of one of the leaves of a sheet of common cap paper; the upper leaves and flowers are next to be covered, when expanded, by pieces of the prepared paper, and one or two of the leaden weights placed on them. The remainder of the plant is now to be treated in a similar manner.

The weights ought next to be gently removed, and the other leaf of the sheet of paper folded over the opposite one, so as to contain the loose pieces of paper and plants between them; a book or two is now to be applied to the outside of the paper, till the intended number of plants is thus prepared, when a box is to be filled with sand to the depth of an inch, one of the plants put in, and covered with sand sufficient to prevent the form of the plant from varying.—The other plants may then be placed in succession, and likewise covered with a layer of sand, one inch thick between each, after which, the whole is to be gently pressed down in a greater or less degree, ac-

ending to the
The box is next
one side being oc
most convenient,
to the fire tw
whole may be put
course of two or
fully dry, when
put into another b
removed to a sheet

Easy M

Immerse a piece
of nitro-mur
of gold upon the st
water the moment
pieces of the gol
the use of the burn
be deflected on hi
by applying a fine b
solution.

Wal

An able practical
need a simple and
being woollen, silk
water-proof. The m

ording to the tenderness or firmness of the plants. The box is next to be carefully placed before a fire, one side being occasionally a little raised, as may be most convenient, the sides being alternately presented to the fire two or three times in the day, or the whole may be put into an oven gently heated; in the course of two or three days the plants will be perfectly dry, when the sand ought to be taken out and put into another box, the plants should likewise be removed to a sheet of writing paper.

Easy Method of Gilding Steel.

Immerse a piece of highly polished steel, in a solution of nitro-muriatic gold, which will leave a coat of gold upon the steel, which must be immersed in water the moment it is gilt. The adhesion and appearance of the gold are considerably improved by the use of the burnisher. All kinds of figures may be delineated on highly polished steel instruments, by applying a fine brush or pen dipped in the above solution.

Water-Proof Cloth.

An able practical chemist of Glasgow has discovered a simple and most efficacious method of rendering woollen, silk, or cotton cloth, completely water-proof. The mode adopted is to dissolve caout-