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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Water-Proof Cloth

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cording 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-

chouc (Indian rubber) in mineral oil, which is procured in abundance at the gas works: by a brush to put five or six coatings of this mixture on one side of the cloth or silk, on which another piece of cloth is laid, and the whole passed between two rollers. The adhesion is most complete; so much so, that it is easier to tear the cloth than to separate either piece from the caoutchouc.

Neptune's Fire.

Pour a little clean water into a small glass tumbler, and put one or two pieces of phosphoret of lime into it. In a short time flashes of fire will dart from the surface of the water, and terminate in ringlets of smoke, ascending in regular succession.

Composition of Tutanag, or Chinese White Copper.

This celebrated alloy has been analyzed by Dr. Fyfe, who gives the following as its composition:—

Copper	40	4
Zinc	25	4
Nickel	31	6
Iron	2	6
	100	0