

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

Digitale Sammlung der Badischen Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Electric Spark from Brown Paper

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To make Wax Candles.

Tie a dozen of wicks on an iron circle, at equal distances, over a large copper vessel, tinned and full of melted wax, pour a ladle full of wax on the tops of the wicks, one after another; what the wick does not take, will drop into the vessel, which must be kept warm by a pan of coals; so poured on till you have your candles as big as you chuse. If you want to have them of a pyramidical form, let the three first ladles be poured on at the top of the wick, the fourth at the height of $\frac{2}{3}$, the fifth at $\frac{1}{2}$, and the sixth at $\frac{1}{3}$; then take them down hot, and lay them aside of each other in a feather bed folded in two, to preserve their warmth and keep the wax soft; then take them down, and roll them one by one on a smooth table, and cut off the thick end as you please.

Electric Spark from Brown Paper.

Thoroughly dry before the fire a quarter of a sheet of rather strong brown paper; place it on your thigh, holding it at the edge, while with the cuff of your sleeve on the other hand, you rub it smartly backwards and forwards for about a minute: if the knuckle be then placed near the paper, it will emit a brilliant spark, accompanied by a snapping noise: the prongs of a fork similarly placed, will produce three distinct streams of light. The experiment must, of

course, be performed in the dark, and the trousers and coat be of woollen cloth.

The Magic Book.

Provide an octavo book of plain paper, of whatever thickness you please. Turn over seven leaves from the beginning, and paint a group of flowers; then turn over seven more leaves and paint the same again; and so on, until you have turned the book through to the end. Then paste a slip of paper or parchment to each of the painted leaves. Turn the book over again, and paint upon every sixth leaf a parrot, and then paste strips upon them as you did upon the first, only a little lower down. Proceed in this manner, until you have painted the book full of pictures of various sorts, taking care one side of the leaves is left white paper. Having made the book, when you use it, hold it in your left hand, and set the thumb of your right hand upon the first of the parchment stays; run the book through, and it will appear full of flowers; then stop, and, blowing upon the book, run it through again, with the thumb upon the second slips of parchment, and it will appear full of parrots, and so on. Afterwards reverse the book, and run it through as before, and it will appear to be composed of blank paper.

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