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

**Halifax, 1848**

Beautiful Metallic Crystallization

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

which immerse the figure or slip of ivory, polished, you intend to silver, till it has become of a bright yellow colour; then take it out of the solution, and immerse it into a tumbler of distilled water, in which expose it to the direct rays of the sun; and in two or three days it will become intensely black; but on rubbing it a little the black surface will be changed to a bright metallic one, resembling silver. As the silver wears off, a new coating of revived metal will be found to replace it, if the ivory be well impregnated with the subnitrate of silver.

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*Beautiful Metallic Crystallization.*

Melt a ladle-full of bismuth, and allow it to cool slowly and gently, till a thin crust has formed on the surface; and then by means of a pointed iron, make two small opposite apertures through the crust, and quickly pour out by one the fluid portion, as carefully and with as little motion of the mass as possible, whilst the air enters by the other aperture: there will appear, on removing the upper crust by means of a chisel, when the vessel has become cold, a cup-shape concavity, studded with very brilliant crystals, and more or less regular, according to the magnitude of the quantity of mass employed, the tranquillity and slowness with which it has cooled, and the dexterity with which the fluid portion, at the moment before it commenced to solidify, was decanted from the crystallized part. The same effect will be pro-

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duced by fusing the substance in a crucible which has a hole at its bottom, lightly closed by an iron rod or stopper, which is to be drawn out when the mass begins to congeal: by this means the superior portion, which is fluid, is made to run off, and a cake studded over with crystals is obtained.

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*To Remove a Gold Ring from the Finger when it has become too tight.*

Take a little quicksilver, and rub it upon the ring, which will soon be penetrated with it, and become so fragile that it will break without the least exertion.

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*Experiment in Respiration.*

Place a mouse or other small animal, under a jar of chlorine gas; or drop it into one from the aperture at the top of a jar filled with it. The animal will instantly expire.—Immerse a mouse or small bird in a jar of hydrogen gas; the animal will instantly die from suffocation, and the want of respirable nourishment.—If a mouse or sparrow be dropped into a jar of nitrogen gas, it will fall down exhausted, and gasping for breath: extinction of life will immediately follow.—Prepare a jar of nitrous oxide gas, and immerse in it any small animal; at first it will appear lively, but afterwards very uneasy and lan-