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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

An Infallible Barometer

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

guishing, and life will quickly become extinct.—If a mouse or other animal be immersed in a jar of sulphuric acid gas, it will instantly expire. There are few gases more deleterious to animal life than this, and too much care cannot be taken not to breathe an atmosphere charged with it, even in a small degree.—If a mouse be dropped into a jar containing carbonic acid gas, it will expire in two or three seconds. In this way butterflies, &c. may be preserved for cabinets.—Confine a mouse or other small animal in a jar of nitrous gas; life will immediately become extinct.—Immerse a mouse in a jar of atmospheric air; it will at first give no signs of uneasiness; but as its respiration proceeds, and the oxygen is consumed (the atmospheric air in the glass being loaded with carbonic acid gas from the lungs), the animal will gradually become faint, and if kept in much longer, will die.—Let two jars be placed on a table; the one containing oxygen gas, and the other pure atmospheric air. Into each of these let a mouse be dropped. The animal immersed in the oxygen will live four times as long as that in the jar of atmospheric air.

An Infallible Barometer.

Put two drams of pure nitre and half a dram of chloride of ammonia, reduced to powder, into two ounces of spirit of wine, or pure alcohol, and place this mixture in a glass tube, ten inches long and

eight inches in diameter, which must be covered with a fine, the solid matter, and the alcohol is to fall in a thin rise and fall somewhat thick at the top, or even a solid matters rise from a crust on the glass in a state of the place 24 hours the point of the liquid is to be indicated by the side of the tube, and is to come.

The Green T

It has been lately employed for the purpose of obtaining hydrogen gas from its coal-mines, serving the green light has been widely used lately by the sailors, whose green these growing in

eight inches in diameter, the upper extremity of which must be covered with a piece of skin or bladder, pierced with small holes. If the weather is to be fine, the solid matters remain at the bottom of the tube, and the alcohol is as transparent as usual. If rain is to fall in a short time, some of the solid particles rise and fall in the alcohol, which becomes somewhat thick and troubled. When a storm, tempest, or even a squall is about to come on, all the solid matters rise from the bottom of the tube, and form a crust on the surface of the alcohol, which appears in a state of fermentation. These appearances take place 24 hours before the tempest ensues; and the point of the horizon from which it is to blow, is indicated by the particles gathering most on the side of the tube, opposite to that part whence the wind is to come.

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The Green Tint of Plants preserved by Gas.

It has been lately discovered that the gas which is now employed for the purpose of illumination (carbonated hydrogen), and which is almost always present in coal-mines, has the curious property of preserving the green-tints of plants unimpaired after all light has been withdrawn from them; various plants having lately been discovered growing in such situations, whose green colour was quite as perfect as those growing in the light.