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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

Conversion of Rags into Sugar

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spots and restored the white. The fluid was so weak, as to contain not more than five or six times its volume of oxygen, and had no taste.

Looking-Glasses.

Professor Lancellotti, of Naples, has discovered a new composition for the fabrication of looking-glasses, which unites economy to facility of execution. He employs three parts of lead and two of mercury. This composition is then melted on the heated and dry glass: it attaches itself strongly to the surface, and the images or objects are faithfully reflected by it; but care must be taken not to let the oxide which is formed in the fusion of this amalgam remain between the glass and the metallic surface.

Conversion of Rags into Sugar.

Dr. Vogel, Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, has submitted to a careful examination in the Laboratory of the Academy of Munich, the surprising discovery of Braconnet, of Nancy, of the effects of concentrated sulphuric acid on wood and linen. He has not only fully confirmed this discovery, but also extended his own experiments, with equal success, to other similar vegetable substances, such as old paper, both printed and written upon, and

cut straw. By diluting the sulphuric acid with a due addition of water, sawdust, cut linen, paper, &c. were converted into gum and saccharine matter. It must excite great interest in reflecting minds, to see an indissoluble, tasteless substance, like the filaments of wood, converted, by chemical re-action, into two new bodies, and chemistry thus exercise a power, which, till lately, appeared to belong to nature alone, and in particular to vegetation. For this artificial formation of sugar and gum, now discovered, must not be confounded with the extraction of these two substances from bodies in which they already existed, a process which has been known from time immemorial. What has now been discovered, is a transformation—a metamorphosis, of which the most ingenious chemist had previously no idea; and it affords a new proof of the boundless extent of the domain of practical chemistry.

To Destroy Caterpillars.

A mode of destroying caterpillars, has been discovered by accident. A piece of woollen rag had been blown by the wind into a currant-bush, and when taken out was found covered by these leaf-devouring insects. Pieces of woollen cloth were immediately placed on every bush in the garden, and next day the caterpillars had universally taken to them for shelter. In this way thousands were destroyed every morning.

Cheap Mo

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