

Badische Landesbibliothek Karlsruhe

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The young man's book of amusement

Halifax, 1848

River Spectacles

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

and polishing the outer coats of varnish that are necessary, which is generally done with the best common seed lac varnish, which is thus applied:—The work to be varnished should be placed near a fire, and made perfectly dry; then the varnish rubbed over, beginning in the middle and passing to one end, again from the middle passing to the other, avoiding to go twice over the same place in forming one coat; when one coat is dry, lay on another, till you have a sufficient thickness to bear the polish, which must be done by rubbing it with a rag dipped in tripoli, or rotten-stone, finely powdered; but towards the end of the rubbing, a little oil of any kind should be used along with the powder; and when the work appears sufficiently bright and glossy, it should be well rubbed with the oil alone to clear it from the powder, and give it a still brighter lustre. In case of white grounds, fine putty or whiting must be used.

River Spectacles.

This useful instrument is a tube which may be varied in length as occasion requires. The diameter at top, where the eye is applied, is about an inch. There is a gradual enlargement of tube to the centre, where the diameter is ten times that of the other extremity. There is a glass at each end. The tube is intended to examine the bottoms of rivers, lakes, &c. The great reason why we cannot see with the naked eye through the water, is the effect of reflection and refraction at

the moment light falls on the surface. This glass overcomes the difficulty of transporting the sight as it were to the dense centre of the water, where it takes advantage of the light in the water, and it is carried in a straight line, as it is in the air. To make use of this apparatus during the night, lights are placed all round the center of the cylinder, which are shorter as they descend to the base of the tube. These lights throw a strong light around, and enable the inspector to see distinctly the bottom of the river.

Preserving of Birds, &c.

Mr. Termineck, director of the Dutch Museum, has for many years, made use of no other means of saving preserved birds and quadrupeds from the attacks of minute insects, than placing a small wooden basin, containing tallow, in each case, which he finds to be more effectual than either camphor or Russia leather.

Chinese Paints.

The peculiar beauty of Chinese drawings is owing, not to the particular nature of the colouring substances, but merely to their being mixed with glue or size, instead of gum-water, as is the common practice in Europe. In regard to the preparation, two things must be observed; first, that the beauty de-