

to move in different directions, and form whirlpools. As the electricity on the conductor accumulates, the troubled liquid will elevate itself in the center, and at last become attached to the ball. Draw off the electricity from the conductor to let the liquid resume its position; a portion of the turpentine remains attached to the ball. Turn the handle again very slowly, and observe now the few drops adhering to the ball assume a conical shape, with the apex downward, while the liquid under it assumes also a conical shape, with the apex upward, until both meet. As the liquid does not accumulate on the ball, there must necessarily be as great a current downward as upward, giving the column of liquid a rapid circular motion, which continues until the electricity from the conductor is nearly all discharged silently, or until it is discharged by a spark, descending into the liquid. The same phenomena takes place with oil or water. Using the latter liquid, the ball must be brought much nearer, or a much greater quantity of electricity is necessary to raise it. Those who have had occasion to observe the sublime phenomenon of a water-spout will at once perceive in the experiment a faithful miniature representation of the gradual formation, progress, and breaking up of that grand phenomenon.

J. F. Anger, of London, has secured a patent for an alloy of metal, which he describes as follows: I melt in a crucible one-hundredth part of good copper, and while in a perfect state of fusion, add seventeen parts of zinc, six parts of magnesite, or substance of a like nature, though perhaps differing in name; three-sixths parts of ammonia, or salts of ammonia; one-eighth part of quick lime or other flux, and nine parts of crude tartar. The crucible is then covered, and the whole is allowed to come to a complete state of fusion. The metal resulting from this combination resembles gold in several of its properties.

The extensive property of gases is a remarkable phenomenon in physics. There are means of ascertaining its limits; but it is known that if from any room the whole air were exhausted, a single cubic inch of either oxygen or nitrogen would, if admitted into so large a vacuum, instantly occupy every part of it, and still press, though with diminished force, against the walls for further expansion. The repulsive force which exists among the atoms, though greatly weakened, would not be exhausted.

NATURAL BAROMETERS.—Chick weed is an excellent barometer. When the flower expands fully, we are not to expect rain for several hours; should it continue in that state, no rain will disturb the summer's day. When it half conceals its miniature flower, the day is generally showery; but if it entirely shuts, or veils the white flower with its green mantle, let the traveler put on his great coat. The different species of three-foils always contract their leaves at the approach of a storm; so certainly does this take place, that these plants acquired the name of the husbandman's barometer. The tulip, and several of the compound yellow flowers, all close before rain. There is a species of wood sorrel which doubles its leaves before storms. The hawthorn, or mountain ebony, capful and sensitive plants, observe the habits.

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