

VII. *An Account of an Experiment, touching an Attempt to produce Light on the Inside of a Globe-Glass lin'd with melted Flowers of Sulphur, as in the Experiments of Sealing-Wax and Pitch.* By Mr. Fr. Hauksbee, F. R. S.

NOTwithstanding Sealing-wax and Pitch afford such surprizing Phænomena, rendring the Form of Bodies visible thro' their Opake Substances, under the Circumstances of a Vacuum and Attrition; yet there are other Bodies, by which very different Effects will be produc'd; of which I shall give you a very remarkable Example: And that is in Flowers of Sulphur, or Sulphur Sublim'd. About half a Pound of this Preparation I melted in a Ladle, and pour'd it into a Globe Glass, and used it in all respects as in the other Experiments: And when it was exhausted, and Motion and Attrition given, I expected as before to have seen a Light on its inside. But all that we could do had no manner of effect on it, in relation to such an Appearance, neither when it was exhausted, nor when replete with Air: There was nothing to be observ'd but a very small weak Light, which after long rubbing, shew'd it self in that part where the Hand touch'd the Glass. But when I came to look upon it, I found the Sulphurous Lining all in a body disengag'd from the Concave surface of the Glass. As to the Electricity of the Globe lin'd with this sort of Matter; after the Attrition of it had been continued for some time,

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and the Glass was become pretty warm (at the same time full of common Air) the Hoop of Threads was held over it; but the Attraction was very inconsiderable on the lin'd part, though on the transparent side the Threads were pretty vigorously directed; yet not with that force and strength, as when the Glass is perfectly clear within, as this was not; because the Fumes of the melted Sulphur adhering to it, made it appear somewhat Cloudy.

*A Repetition of the foregoing Experiment with Common Sulphur.*

I took a quantity of Common Sulphur, nearly equal to what I had used before of the Flowers; which having melted as before, I pour'd it into another Globe Glass, which I us'd in all Respects as the former. But when I had exhausted it, and given the usual Motion and Attrition, the effect was so surprizingly different, that one would scarce think it should proceed from the same sort of body. For the Figure of my Hand and Fingers appear'd not only on its inside, (tho' more faint and pale than in the Experiments of Sealing-wax and Pitch,) but on its outside there appear'd a brisk Purple Light, so beautiful and agreeable to the Eye, that it was very pleasant to behold. The Strength of this Light may be judged from hence, That the Lines of the Palm of my Hand, which being near the touching Parts, were easily discoverable by it; and were a small Print plac'd at the same distance, I question not but it would be legible without any great difficulty. And as this common Sulphur differ'd vastly in that part of the Experiment already related, from the former, so likewise in the latter; for when the Hoop of Threads came to be held over it, (under the same Circumstances as in the other) they were directed toward it as vigorously as in any Experiment heretofore made. The Parts lin'd and trans-

transparent perform'd much alike; if there was any difference, it seem'd to incline to that part lin'd with the Sulphur. Likewise in this Experiment as in the last, the Sulphur was loosen'd and separated from the Glass that contain'd it: Which therefore cannot be urg'd, as any ways conducible to the Unsuccessfulness of the former.

*A Repetition of this last Experiment with a larger quantity of Sulphur.*

Into a Globe Glass of the same size of the former, which was about five Inches Diameter, I pour'd about two Pound of melted Sulphur: This, when cold, contracted it self, and became loose from every part of the Glass, as in the former Experiments: The Sulphur cover'd more than half the inward surface of the Globe, and its thinnest part was about half an Inch in thickness. Towards the Axis it appear'd to be more than a full Inch in Substance. This Glass, when exhausted of its Air, was used in every thing as the former. The Light produc'd was very considerable, I mean that on its outside, and attended with the same Colour and Vivacity as before; nor was that less vigorous on its inside. Comparing it with the former, notwithstanding the thickness of the Lining, it was at least four times greater; but the Figure of the Fingers was now not so distinguishible as in the other. But on the part near the Axis (as I hinted before) where the substance of the Sulphur was much the greatest, no Light was produc'd; which may be attributed in a great measure to the slowness of the motion and the weakness of it there, in comparison with that which is made more remote from it, where it was that the Light was seen within. What farther is observable, was that the Light which was visible on its outside only, appear'd to be

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produc'd between the inward Surface of the Glafs and the convex Surface of the Sulphur; the Sulphur being loofe from it gave liberty for the Air to be taken from thence as well as from the other Parts: The Light which was there produc'd, being reflected by the hard, polliſh'd, and nearly contiguous Body of Sulphur, ſeems to me to be the Reaſon why it appear'd with ſo much vigour. This outward Light would ſometimes break into Branches all over the lin'd part of the Globe, in as odd, and as pleaſant a manner, as what has been taken notice of in former Experiments, with the large Globe Glafs, upon letting in a little Air. And what farther occur'd in this Experiment was, that when the Attrition was ceas'd, but the Globe continuing its motion, abundance of Sparks of Light would appear all round it, and continue ſo to do for ſome time, without any freſh Attrition. I cannot conclude without taking ſome notice, that in the Experiments formerly made on Sulphur, mention'd in my Book of *Phyſico-Mechanical Experiments*, I us'd the ſame fort as in the firſt of theſe; and had it been my Chance to have happen'd on the common fort, I doubt not but the Succeſs of it would have been different from what is there related, which I hope to try at one time or other.

*Coroll.* Hence we may ſee what *Remarkable Changes* may be produc'd in Bodies, with reſpect to their *Electrical* and *Luminous* Qualities, by their different *Management* and *Preparation*: As here 'tis plain that *common Sulphur*, which is plentifully endow'd with *both* theſe Qualities, by undergoing the *Chimical Fire* (which *ſublimes* it into *Flowers*;) is almoſt totally depriv'd of them *both*.

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Perhaps by *other* management of the same Body, this Loss might be repair'd again. And 'tis possible there may be *Chymical* Operations, which instead of impairing, may *Improve* and Heighten these wonderful Qualities of Bodies: Nay for ought that I know, may as well *give them a new*, where they never were at all; as to take them away, where they once were in a great degree of Perfection. The Powers of Nature are not to be determin'd beforehand by *Demonstration*, but to be search'd out by *Observation* and *Experiment*. And as these Trials have open'd the way to *something that looks with a very promising Aspect*; so we hope by degrees to pursue them with some good Success.

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