

coming in contact with it. On this subject several curious particulars are mentioned by Dr. Percival, relative to the attraction and repulsion between dew and glass or metalline vessels. The experiments were made by M. Dufay, who, in order to determine with certainty whether the difference between vitrified substances and metals was the same in all cases, set a china saucer in the middle of a silver plate, and on one side adjoining to it was placed a china plate, with a silver dish very much resembling the saucer in the middle. In this experiment, the china saucer was covered with dew, but the plate, though extending four inches round it, was not moistened in the least. The china plate also had become quite moist, while the silver vessel in the middle had not received the smallest drop. M. Dufay next endeavoured to ascertain whether a china saucer, set upon a plate of metal as already described, did not receive more dew than it would have done if exposed alone. To accomplish this design, he took two watch crystals of equal dimensions, and placed the one upon a plate of silver, the other upon a plate of china, each with its concavity uppermost. That which was upon the silver plate he surrounded with a ferule of the same metal well polished, that no watery particles might attach themselves to the convex surface of the glass. In this situation he exposed the crystals for several days successively, and always found five or six times more dew in that which was on the china plate than in the other placed on the silver."

From this quotation it will appear, that the early experimenters were acquainted with the fact that dew is not deposited on all substances equally, though they were unacquainted with the cause. There is a curious passage in the writings of Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, in relation to this subject. "By the means of a little beeswax," he says, "I fastened a half crown very near, but not quite contiguous to the side of the glass, and setting the glass with its mouth downward on the grass, it presently became covered with vapour except that part of it which was next the half crown. Not only the half crown itself was free from vapour, but it had hindered any from settling on the glass which was near it; for there was a little ring of glass surrounding the half crown to the distance of a quarter of an inch, which was quite dry, as well as that part of the glass which was immediately under the half crown; it seemed as if the silver had repelled