

dentally wedged in between a wall and a wainscot, are subsequently found in the state above described.

An experiment of a very simple character in itself, and very easily made, will serve to ascertain, not only the proportional quantity of water of composition contained in some forms of animal matter, but also the properties communicated by the presence of that element thus combined. Every one has noticed the opaline or milky appearance and the remarkable elasticity of cartilage, or gristle, as it is more commonly called: which characters depend on the water contained in it; for if a piece of gristle, the weight of which has been previously ascertained, be exposed to the air of a warm room, it will at the end of a few hours have lost a portion of its weight; and will have become nearly transparent, and entirely inelastic: and if, in this state, it be immersed in water, it will gradually recover its original weight, and also its elasticity and opaline appearance. If, instead of gristle, a piece of boiled white of egg be employed, the same results will be observable; for, together with loss of weight and elasticity, it will become brittle, and nearly as transparent as pure amber: and on the other hand, by subsequent immersion in water, its original properties will be soon restored. By experiments nearly as simple as those above mentioned it may be demon-