

(12.) The disked tuning fork is a most instructive instrument, and I shall not quit it until I have availed myself of its properties to exemplify the easy propagation of vibrations, of a definite pitch, through a system comparatively much less disposed to transmit those of any other pitch. Take two or more forks in unison, and furnish each of them with a single disk of the size of a large wafer, looking outwards. Having struck one of them, let its disk be brought near to that of the other, centre opposite to centre, and it will immediately set the other in vibration, as will be evident by the sound produced by it when the first fork is stopped, as well as by its tremors, sensible to the hand which holds it. The communication of the vibration is much more powerful and complete when a small loop of fine silver wire is fixed to one of the forks, and brought lightly into contact with the other, with its looped or convex side. Imagine now a series of such forks and loops arranged as in the annexed figure, and let the first, A, be maintained in vibration by any exciting cause, as, for instance, by sounding a musical note opposite to its disk, A, in unison with its pitch. The vibrations so excited will, as is evident, run along the whole line, though with diminishing intensity, to the last

