

“ be ; and that which is done is that which shall
“ be done : and there is no new thing under the
“ sun.”

In a most amusing and instructive account of Pompeii, which forms one of the volumes published under the name of the Library of Entertaining Knowledge, is a dissertation on the Baths of the Ancients ; which will amply repay, by the information it conveys, the time occupied in its perusal. In that dissertation is contained a description of the remains of some public baths, discovered in the excavations of Pompeii : and with reference to the disposition of the furnace of the baths a fact is stated, which is peculiarly applicable to our present purpose.

It is evident that, in consequence of the enormous quantity of water which was daily heated in their public baths, the attention of the ancients must necessarily have been directed to the most economical mode of applying the fuel by which the heat of the furnace was maintained : and the following extract from the above-mentioned account of Pompeii will shew that, even in a small town of ancient Italy, an economical principle was well understood and applied eighteen centuries since, which has only been of late revived in modern science. It is stated in that account (p. 152), that “ close to the furnace,
“ at the distance of four inches, a round vacant
“ space still remains, in which was placed the