

*An Account of four sorts of factitious Shining Substances, communicated to the Publisher from very good hands, both in printed Papers and in Letters not printed.*

Two of these four substances have been already spoken of in two of the late *Transactions*, vid. *Numb.* 131. p. 788, and *Numb.* 134. p. 842; and they are, one of them, the *Factitious Paste* of Dr. *Balduin*, shining in the dark like a glowing Coal, after it hath been a while exposed to the Day or Candle-light; the other, the *Bononian Stone* calcin'd, which imbibes light from the Sun-beams, and so renders it again in the dark, whereas the former needs no Shining Sun, but doth the effect in quite overcast weather and even in a misty day. To these we shall now add two other sorts. The one is by the Germans called *Phosphorus Smaragdinus*, said to be of this nature, that it collects its light not so much from the Sun-beams, or the illuminated Air, as from the Fire it self; seeing that, if some of it be laid upon a Silver or Copper-plate, under which are put some live coals, or a lighted Taper, it will presently shine, and if the same matter be shaped into Letters, one is able to read it, The other is called *Phosphorus Fulgurans*, which is a matter, made both in a liquid and dry form, and not only shineth in the dark, and communicates a sudden light to such bodies as 'tis rubbed upon; but, being included in a Glass-vessel well closed, doth now and then fulgurate, and sometimes also raise it self as 'twere into waves of light: Differing very much from the *Balduinian Stone*, which is to be exposed to some shining Body, as the Day, the Sun, the Fire or some lighted Candle, to receive light from thence; whereas this Fulgurating substance carries its light alwaies with it, and when put in a dark place, presently shews the same. Of which we have this further assurance given us, that a little portion of it, having been kept two whole years, hath not yet lost its power of shining: So that 'tis believed, if a considerably big piece were prepared of it, it would serve for a perpetual, or, at least, a very long-lasting light.

So far this communication; the effect of which 'tis hoped will in due time appear here amongst us, if the Author be competently encouraged thereunto.

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