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## ON THE FORMATION OF THE DAGUERREIAN IMAGE.

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Recorded facts serve as much to the advancement of the sciences as theories; we must not, therefore, be much surprised at seeing collected, with so much care, a multiplicity of experiments, which at first sight appear only curious; but the whole of which, taken together, may in reality serve to establish theories, and consequently to give the explanation of a great number of isolated facts.

It will have been observed, that the explanation of what takes place in the formation of the Daguerreian images is not entirely satisfactory to the mind; it is, therefore, not impossible that the adjunction of certain facts, which seem to have a more or less direct bearing on these phenomena, may contribute to negative, rectify, or confirm the existing theory. It will be already surmised that we allude to the experiments of Mr. Moser, and to those which have reference to them.

These experiments are of the most curious character, and, perhaps, even derive their singularity from their very mysterious nature; and we have no doubt that a great number of amateurs will apply themselves to repeat them; and as, in all these experiments, a slight modification in the

manner of operating may bring about a totally different result, we earnestly recommend experimentalists to keep an exact journal of their observations, as the multiplication of facts can alone lead to the explanation of such remarkable phenomena. Whether these phenomena are produced by the action of the luminous radiation of bodies in the deepest darkness; whether they are the result of an evaporation of organic matter, carried off by the vapor of water; or, lastly, whether they are only produced by thermographic or electographic actions, is what we will not allow ourselves to discuss; our province is here merely that of the historian: we shall therefore, confine ourselves to relating, in chronological order, the experiments which have been made.

*On the Formation of the Daguerreian Images.*—"It is now known that when an iodized plate is left, during a proper time, in the camera, a visible image is immediately obtained, without the necessity of exposing the plate to the mercury. But this image is an inverse or negative image; that is to say, the white parts are black, and the shades white. In Mr. Daguerre's discovery, the operator does not wait till this negative image appears; when he withdraws the plate from the action of light, nothing is perceptible on it; but the iodized coating is sufficiently affected to