

tastes. The instructions direct us to crimp or fold the yellow papers backwards and forwards, so that, when opened out, they may be supported upright in a zigzag form. One of these slips is then placed upright on a plate, and ignited in two or three places along the upper edges, but without being allowed to blaze. It will burn slowly down with a red glow, diffusing an agreeable perfume, whilst the ash of the paper assumes the most fantastic arborescent shapes, together with a green colour, which, to a lively imagination, may be suggestive of the growth of ferns and lichens. We had no difficulty in imitating this effect by saturating thin cartridge paper, in the first instance, with an alcoholic solution of gum benzoin, and, when dry, apply an aqueous solution of bichromate of ammonia. The decomposition of the latter substance by heat, in contact with burning paper, affords an explanation of the phenomena observed.

MEDICAL NEWS.

EARLY STRUGGLES OF MEDICAL MEN.

Dr. John Cheyne, who, a quarter of a century ago, was by far the busiest and best employed physician in Dublin, tells us, in his interesting autobiography, that, during the first half of his second year's settlement in the Irish capital, and when he had already reached the thirty-fourth year of his age, his fees only amounted to about three guineas. Nine years subsequently, he was making £5,000 annually. Not above one or two physicians in London ever drew, I believe, a larger professional income, or, perhaps, ever advanced more early into full practice, than Dr. Chambers; yet, during the fifth year of his practice, when he was already thirty-four or thirty-five years of age, he did not receive above £211 in fees. Seventeen years subsequently, his annual professional income is stated to have reached nearly to £9,000. His great predecessor in high London practice, Dr. Matthew Baillie drew above £11,000 in one year; and yet, with all the interest of the Hunters and others to aid him in his outset, his first march upwards was, like that of all others, very slow and difficult, and, to quote the words of his biographer, Dr. Wardrop, "before he found himself fairly established in practice, he had been already for twelve years physician to St. George's Hospital, and for nearly twelve years a medical lecturer." Dr. Baillie's uncle, the celebrated Dr. Hunter, who spent a large fortune, gained by his profession alone, upon the collection of that splendid museum which now enriches the University of Glasgow, was so hard pressed for money during the years of his earlier struggles in London practice, that he was obliged to postpone for a for-