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J. G., of Md.—Your communication is of interest, but you have not stated where the furnace is located, nor where the ore is obtained, slthough we infer the steamboat you mention runs on Lake Superior. Be particular in describing the places in your next

Inter. T. H., of Pa.—The south pole attracts the north pole of a magnet, and wice verso. When a small compass, therefore, is brought within the influence of a large and powerful one, the small magnet is rotated.

M. D., of Maine.—The sound of one bugle is heard at as great a distance as fifty pitched on the same key—that is, considering the sounds to proceed from the same center of vibration.

C. D., of Mo.—Fluor spar subjected to the heat of a blowpipe will emit a phosphorescent light; butwe are unacquainted with any cold mixture that will produce such a light in a gla s vessel.

E. H. H., of Ohio.—We have no data to ascertain how far a 200-lb. shot would go through water direct. Our iron-clads are armorplated to a denth of from two to four feet below the light

armorplated to a depth of from two to four feet below the light load-line: some are of wood and some are of iron below the armor. L. F. R., of N. Y.-HI is impossible for us to judge from your letter what sort of occupation is best suited to your taste and canacity. We usually think it bestforpersons seeking employment

to do that which suits their own inclination; but for us to undertake to advise what you ought to do would be simply absurd. G. W. L., of N. Y.—There is no special work published

relating to the combustion of our anthracite coal in furnaces. J. S., of Pa.-Litharge is about the best "drier" for

paints that you can use, but the oxide of manganese is scarcely inferior. Fused copal is dissolved in hot oil with turpentine, but we have been informed that varnish makers now employ benzine as a substitute for the turpentine. How it is used we have not been informed, but as it is very volatile it will require to be mixed in a close vessel.

M. M. C., of Maine.—The quantity of waste water at the snifting valve of a hydraulic ram will depend upon the hight of the fall, and the hight to which the water is to be raised. If the water is to be raised to a less hight than the fall, the waste water will be less than that which is forced up by the ram, and rice versa. We leave out the question of friction in the pipes. With a fall of four feet to raise water eight feet, double the quantity of water to that elevated will be required.

E. L., of Pa.—We cannot understand the nature of your question. You ask the reason why 30 pounds of soda, dissolved in 40 gallons of water, will not crystallize when half a pint of vitriol is added. We cannot see what purpose you intend to subserve by the use of the vitriol. Caustic soda lye is made by dissolvingequal quantities of fresh slacked lime and soda, then allowing the sediment to settle. The clearliquoris caustic soda lye, from which, if oil, tallow or any other grease is added and boiled a sufficient length of time, hard soap will be produced.

W. D., of Ill.—The furnaces under steam boilers, for burning bituminous coal, range from three feet to eighteen inches in depth according to the size of boiler. Your fire-box of 12 inches depth may answer for the small boiler. Anthracite coal is more destructive than bituminous upon boilers.

J. W. P., of Wis.—Your desire to obtain a quick running water wheel to avoid the use of gearing in running your lathe and you have only a fall of four feet. You will be unable to get a quick-running wheel on such a low fall, but any of the turbine wheels advertised in the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN will suit your purpose best. There is no book published containing illustrations of the most recent improvements in water wheels, but most of the best wheels have been described and illustrated in our columns.

D. McJ., of Canada.—We believe you will find no difficulty in smelting metals in your cupola, five feet in hight and fitteen inches in diameter, by using any good blower to produce a a draft. A six horse-power engine should be sufficient to drive the blower. We advise you not to waste time, labor ormoney upon a fiying machine. Some new power superior to steam must be discovered before flying can be rendered practicable. The British ink powder which you have forwarded appears to be composed of the extract of logwood, some cam wood, a little picric acid and the bichromate of potash. Ink made with nutgalls, logwood and the sulphate of iron, is the most permanent known to us forrecords that are intended to be kept for many years.

G. C., of Conn.—Address the Delamater Iron Works for such information a you require about caloric engines. We cannot state which is the best steam engine of ten horse-power.

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