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F. S. C., of Mass.-Simple as the rule for nominal horse-power of an engine is, it seems ithat many persons get very much befogged on it. The number of inches of area in the piston is to be multiplied by the steam pressure on each inch of said area, which will give the total pressure on the piston. The sum thus ob-tained is multiplied by the feet per minute which the piston travels; divide the sum by 33.000, the mechanical expression of one horse power, and we have what purports to be the force of the engine. We can't make the matter any simpler, and we have an ewered this question about once a week for the last five years. gine.

H. H., of Wis .- We cannot tell you the exact quantity of glycerine to put in plaster to keep it soft, but it would be a very

le matter to try a little, and thus accertain by experiment. J. G. P., of Pa.-Yonr cast-iron pulley can be turned

with a chilled iron tool. Make an iron mold of a tool, in shape like a fence picket-flat on top, a little round on the end, and with but little rake; cast a tool of white iron, face down, in this mold, and you will succeed without taking off the scale. Run the pulley very slow, and take light cuts. Do not grind the tool but very little.

F. A. Y., of Ohio.- If you examine the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN you will find many boilers illustrated thereis; perhaps will suit your purpo

E. P. A., of Conn.-India-rubber is insoluble in alcohol. One part of rubber dissolved in sixty-four of chloroform will make a transparent coment, and reest alcohol and linseed oll.

., of Kansas.-You say you sent us a year ago a J. K. I query and a drawing, with arequest to work out an elaboratecalculation of the power of a certain what mill, and what weight it would require to run a set of mill-stones by a tram of gears, and you complain that you have never seen any answerthereto. We answered you at that time that we cannot engage to make calculations of the power of windmills or other mschnery for individuals; all that we do in that line is furnished forgeneral reading.

W. D., of Ill. — We can recommend the *Tinman's Man-*and and *Mechanic's Handbook* for your purpose. J. K. Butts & Co., publishers, Washington street, Boston, Mass.

C. T. G., of Ill.-You will find it cheaper to buy malle able iron castings from those who have works erected to make them the at to erect works for a small quantity. We cannot give a description of the process in a few lines, but maileable iron is simply annealed cast iron. It requires time-nearly three weeks-and experience to conduct the operation.

G. B. D., of Md.—There is no ground to write an article upon the manufacture of seamless biass tubes. They are cast in ed after every drawing.

F. S. C., of Mass.—According to the laws regulating the velocities of failing bodies, all substances fail through an equal space in the same time

C. D. W., of Mass.-To charge a bar of steel with mag i etism, place the end of a magnet upon the side of the bar at one end and draw it to the other end, then return the magnet through the air and repeat the stroke, making the passes always in the same direction. Soft iron loses its magnetism instantly.

J. L. G., of N. Y.-If one pound of sulphur be thor oughly mixed with six or eight pounds of india-rubber and pressed in a mold, at a temperature of 300°, it will be vulcanized by the op eration, and will afterward retain its form

D. H. W., of N. Y .- The easiest way for you to divide a circle into any given number of equal parts, we presume, would be by simply trying it with your dividers. In plane geometry, rever, you will find the relations of the diameter of a circle to sides of inscribed polygons. You will probably find the mean ing of all those words in any large dictionary.

R. D. R., of Tenn.-The gnomon of a sun-dial must point to the pole of the heavens, and to do this it must be inclined t an angle from the horizon corresponding to the latitude of the lace where the dial is located, and set due north. Perhaps the needle in your locality devlates from the north.

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