THE ALUMINUM AGE.

A Wetal That May Revolutionize Ship-building and Other Construction.

The world has had its ages of stone and bronze. We are now passing through the iron age. Will this be succeeded by an age of aluminum? We believe that it will. It taxes one's imagination a little, we confess, but not one's credulity to see in the mind's eye the bright and beautiful aluminum replacing black and ugly iron in most of the latter's uses.

Fancy houses made of aluminum instead of iron. The weight of the new metal is only a third as much as iron, with equal or greater tensile strength. The girders and the plates could be cast and readily handled in sizes far larger than those to which architectural iron is now confined. Perhaps whole fronts of modern-sized houses could be moulded in a single piece. This would greatly facilitate building operations which are now slow.

Aluminum is as fire proof as iron. The larger the plates of the metal composing the side of the house the less liable they are to be warped and curled by intense heat. A building with aluminum walls, such as we have described, would survive a great conflagration in which iron structures of existing patterns would wither and crumble to the ground. As aluminum never rusts, a house constructed of it would always exhibit a silvery, glistening surface. It would require no cleaning, except as smoke or dust might gradually dim its native beauty. A sponge and water would bring all that back Whenever aluminum is cheap enough for house building, steamships will be made of it. This will be a revolution in ocean commerce. Hulls of aluminum ships will weigh only a third as much as iron ones of equal tonnage. They will be as strong and secure against damage from collision as iron vessels now are. Their far greater bouyancy will be to that extent an increase of safety.

Passenger cars made of aluminum in light and graceful patterns-including wheels of the same metal-need weigh no more than wooden cars of our day, and they would be incombustible, and would not be readily crumpled up or smashed into splinters by collisions. The perils of railroad traveling in the age of aluminum will be much less than now.

The ductility of aluminum will render it the best of all possible materials for bridges. The weight of the wire ropes, as also of the bridge itself, for a given span, being but one third that of iron, engineers will perform feats of bridge building now wholly beyond their powers. The age of aluminum will be the age of bridges. They will probably be thrown over the East and North rivers at intervals of every few blocks.

With the sufficient cheapening of alurhinum may come the realization of the flying machine. One great obstacle to the success of aerial navigation is the difficulty of supplying a practical motor either to propel or to steer the balloon. The want is still more seriously felt if the design is to dispense with gas and imitate merely the movement of a bird's wing or a fish's tail in cleaving the air.

The small weight of an aluminum engine, driven by compressed air, gas or electricity, compared with its iron equivalent, undoubtedly makes the ultimate success of air ships more probable than before.

The sources of supply are inexhaustible. Iron, copper, silver, gold are found in localities geographically small. But one of the most universally distributed materials of the earth beneath our feet is clay, the metallic base of which is aluminum. Having boundless faith in the ingenuity of man to overcome difficulties, we confidently expect him to wrest this now stubborn metal from its superabundant combinations, and enable the world soon to enter on an age of aluminum!-N. X. Journal of Commerce.

BLANKER'S MISTAKE.

He Acts as Chief Mourner at the Wrong Man's Funeral.

A week or more ago a gentleman whom we will eat! Mr. Blank died, and the time and place of his funeral were announced in the papers. Another gentleman, whom we will call Blanker, saw the notice and said to himself:

"Dear, dear, my old friend and benefactor is dead. I knew he was in Washington and intended to call on him, but now it is too late." And he censured himself for his neglect of the man who had been his friend when he sorely needed a friend.

Tortured by his conscience he sought to make up as best he could for his fault. He sent the most magnificent floral piece he could buy and, on the day of the funeral, was one of the most demonstrative of the mourners.

After the casket had been lowered into the grave and the ceremonies were at an end the repentant Mr. Blanker turned with tears streaming from his eyes and said to a gentleman walking beside him toward the carriage:

"I am almost heartbroken at the loss of my dear old friend."

-A French chemist named Beaumetz exhibited at a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine a new alimentary substance which he names fromentiae. It is obtained from wheat by the aid of special millstones and is really the embryo of the wheat reduced to flour. It contains three times more nitrogenous substance than meat, and a large proportion of sugar. It is thought that it may advantageously replace powdered meat as a concentrated food. It may be employed for making soups, and even for making biscuits

-Mrs. Harrison recently said to a friend: "It may be that after a time I shall get used to the unpleasant features of my present position, but just now I am not in a contented frame of mind. I don't like the White House as a residence. I detest the publicity which pertains to our home life, and I regret that I am obliged to see so little of my husband. Is it not absurd that my father and the babies should be gossiped about all over the country? My husband is President, but that is no reason why the rest of us should be made public characters."

Praise, to mean any thing at all, must be spontaneous and prompted by real approval of character or admiration of excelence; otherwise it is us futile as a bubble that floats a moment in the air and is gone forever. -Once Week.



Some years ago I was thrown from a horse in McLennan county, and received a frightful wound on one of my less. For more than a year I was unable to walk. The wound ulcerated and refused to heal, and every one thought I would have to submit to amputation. S.S.S. was recommended, and I used it freely, and I shall never get through thanking S.S.S. for saving my leg, and restoring me to perfect health. Garland Wilson, Palestine, Texas, July, 24, 88.

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Her Fare was Her Fortane.

She was as Pretty as a picture and so animated and lovely that it did one good to look at her. She was all this but she is not now. Poor soul, the roses linder no more in her cheeks, the former luster of her eyes is gone. She is a weekgome looking piece of humanity now. She has one of those troubles so common to women and needs Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, it recuperates the wasted strength, puts the whole system right, restores the roses and the luster and makes the woman what she once was, bright, well and happy. "Favorite Prescription" is the only medicine for women, sold by druggests, under a positive guarantee, from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle-wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

For all derangements of the liver, stomach and bowels, take Dr. Pierces Pellets. One a dose.

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