

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Why a Pin Floats.

"Inquisitor" writes: "I see that you purpose answering questions; and, as a poser was propounded to me by my sons, aged seven and eleven years, respectively, I submit it to you: Why does a common pin, when perfectly dry, float on water? Are there some chemical properties which hold it up?"

The property of matter, or force, called cohesion, tends to hold together the molecules of water, and most other substances in nature. Hence these molecules resist displacement, and this resistance is sufficient to sustain light articles, even of metal, upon a smooth surface of water; provided such articles have the proper shape and a highly polished surface, and are perfectly dry when laid upon the water. If a pin have a rough surface, or be irregular in shape, or wet, it will not float. Irregularity of shape will destroy the equilibrium necessary to a floating position; and the capillary attraction, consequent upon a rough or wet surface, will attract the water to all parts of that surface, and thus make the pin sink. Space admits of only a brief and incomplete explanation of this matter here; but in almost any school book or other elementary work on natural philosophy, it is fully explained.

Back Numbers.

A subscriber at Springdale, evinces his appreciation of the **DESERET WEEKLY**, in the following manner:

"I write in consequence of a missing number of the **WEEKLY**. No. 1 came all right, but No. 2 I have never seen. Now, what am I to do in this case? I am well pleased with the change that has been made in the **WEEKLY**, and wish to preserve all the numbers, in order to get them bound in a book; for it bids fair to be the best magazine that has ever been printed. How am I to obtain the missing number? Please answer."

We can furnish all subscribers with back numbers of the **DESERET WEEKLY**, if they wish to have them.

Rock Salt.

B. L. Thomas, of Malad, asks where rock salt can be had, and the price per ton. Almost any wholesale grocer in this city, or Ogden, will furnish it. The price is about \$10 per ton, loose, or \$11 sacked. J. W. Snell is a leading salt man of this city, and will fill orders at these figures. A car load would cost less.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cases of Healing.

Under date of January 8, Brother John M. Paxton, of Kanosh, furnishes the following:

A few weeks ago my wife was horrified to learn that she had a cancer in her throat and on the palate; and when we thought of President Grant, the Emperor of Germany, and others, afflicted in

like manner, we were assured that the skill of the physician is insufficient in such cases. God, the head Physician, moved upon His servant, Brother Blackburn, to come over to Kanosh. Sister Watts being sick, had written for him, and in answering her that he could not come, he found, in looking over his letter, that he had promised to come. He obeys the whisperings of the still small voice; and when he arrives he does not rest in peace, but anxiously awaits to perform the mission assigned him. Hence his remarks when he saw my wife: "Sister, my whole soul has been drawn out towards you, even before I had seen you; now I know why I had to come to Kanosh, and I feel that you are about to receive a great blessing; and when you do so, give God the glory, but remember me in your prayers."

Through his administration, the united effort of my family, and the faith and prayers of many good people, my wife is healed.

Sister Watts also received help; and the wife of Charles Watts had a cancer healed.

Homes in Idaho.

A. W. Beach writes as follows from Eagle Rock, Bingham County, Idaho, under date of January 23rd:

I am in receipt of letters of inquiry from James Allen, Sandy, Salt Lake County, and others, concerning the possibility of securing homes in Idaho. In answer, I may say that in this portion of the valley there is some vacant land waiting for those seeking a home. The soil, being heavy loam, is capable of producing all kinds of grain. There is an endless quantity of water, and all that is now needed are labor and the means to obtain it. Water can be had from the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Water Company at the rate of \$5 per inch, on nine years' time, under a 4-inch pressure. Seventy-five or 100 inches will supply all the water required for 160 acres of land, and this can be supplied continuously from the time a person commences irrigating until he is through. This may seem expensive; but it is good property. To the greater portion of mankind bread is the "staff of life." The Irishman says whisky is "life itself." So it is, with water. Water is life itself to the land. To those who would rather buy homes I would say that there are some good farms for sale ranging from \$300 to \$4,000, with good improvements.

It is the opinion of many that some kinds of fruit will do well here, such as apples, hardy plums, gooseberries, currants, grapes and strawberries. Tomatoes, sugar cane, melons and white flint corn pay; as well as all sorts of vegetables. Timber is plentiful 25 or 30 miles away, and when rafted on the river it comes very reasonable. Building is likewise plentiful; and brick clay and lime rock are in abundance. The winters, as a rule, are mild. For stock wintering out there is a good and extensive range.

After what I have stated, I ask your readers to reflect back for a moment to the time of the arrival of

our parents in Utah, with the then scarcity of water, and themselves one thousand miles beyond the region of civilization—poor, weary, and footsore. Then compare the advantages offered today in Idaho with the disadvantages against which they formerly had to contend, and I am sure we shall all come to the conclusion to see for ourselves and make a home here, though it will require some hard knocks, to be sure.

We have our meetings, Sabbath schools, mutuals, etc., in good working order; so that with warm hearts, what if the storms do occasionally rage?

Wilford, Idaho.

"J. R. M." sends us the following from Wilford, Bingham County, Idaho, under date January 15th:

On Sunday and Monday last district meetings were held at Wilford. There were present Presidents Ricks, Rigby and Gunnell; Bishops Davis, Donaldson and Parker; Patriarchs Smith and Hineckley, a few influential visitors from Utah, and many citizens from the neighboring settlement. The speakers addressed the meetings with animation, and to the point, and were attentively listened to. The subjects treated upon were the building up of the country, the duties we owe to God and to one another, the maintaining of confidence, union of effort, and the necessity of becoming self-sustaining.

We have large farms here, and it requires union to fence them and to construct irrigating canals, and to build meetinghouses. We were also reminded of the necessity of caring for the poor and assisting the distressed. We should remember our devotions, attend fast meetings and bring in our offerings on those days, assist the relief societies, and, as the building of temples and public enterprises requires means, it is necessary that we pay our tithes and offerings, seeing that we have no contribution boxes in our houses of worship.

Our Presidents and Bishops visited the Mutual Improvement Associations on Sunday evening and gave some useful instruction. President Ricks considers it beneficial to have district meetings in the different settlements occasionally, and in a few weeks a similar one is to be held in Parker Ward, three miles north of here. At the close of our conference (for such it really was) the Teton brass band discoursed some good music while the assembly was dispersing.

We have an abundant range for sheep and other stock. Wherever one goes, for miles and miles there extends a vast prairie of grass of the finest quality. Wilford produce excellent corn without water last summer, and some wheat. We also raised a number of squashes, each of which weighed over 100 pounds, and there were melons in great quantities which lasted until about the 1st of November.

We are to have a new meeting house, 60x36. This building will be shortly commenced, and teams will be hauling rock to build the walls in a few days. We also expect to fence in a couple of big fields next spring.