

would require a dozen to obtain a heat equal to boiling water. For the evaporation to be made with more success, we ought to diminish the thickness of the water as much as possible; a mass of water a foot deep will not evaporate nearly so quick as the same mass reduced to six inches, and increased to double the superficies. Besides, the bottom being nearer the surface, it heats quicker, and this heat, which the bottom of the vessel receives, contributes still more to the celerity of the evaporation.

2. These mirrors may be used with advantage to calcine plaisters, and even calcareous stones, but they would require to be larger, and the matters placed in an elevated situation, that nothing might be lost by the obliquity of the light. It has already been observed that gypsum heats as soon again as soft calcareous stone, and nearly twice as quick as marble, or hard calcareous stone; their calcination, therefore, must be in a respective ratio. I have found by an experiment repeated three times, that very little more heat is required to calcine white gypsum, called alabaster, than to melt lead. Now the heat necessary to melt lead is, according to the experiments of Newton, eight times stronger than the heat of the summer sun; it therefore would require at least sixteen

teen.