THE WORD BUFF

I can remember it well. And I shall never forget it.

The Master spoke, "My logologist son, be this forever ingrained on your memory. A large vocabulary will serve you in good times and bad. To get ahead in this world, one must know The Word."

I listened intently. I studied hard. I learned the book by Webster. Yet did I really get ahead?

Recently I found the 26 definitions below, bequeathed to me by the Master. What was I to do? There are 26 of them. Perhaps to find 26 alphabetical words for them?

No! The Master was much too astute for that. Surely there must be one word to match them all. My Master knew all.

I found it! Can you?

alembic cover
bundle of flax
chief
doubling in flight
drug user
end
extra piece on casting
foam
force
freedom
grade of wool
herd
hottest part of grass fire

individual
level in coal mine
lump of crude sugar
mass of leaves
most difficult fracture direction
officer
point
pressure
rammer
recording device
source
talent
understanding

All definitions are from Webster's Second and Webster's Third. In case you fail, little brother, the answer is revealed in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.