

Europe's Volcanoes

Geology

Prepared by Dr. Henry S. Washington, Geophysical Laboratory, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

VESUVIUS—The most accessible and best known volcano in Europe is Vesuvius, near Naples. It is visited easily by taking the Circo-Vesuviano railway (from its special station) and changing cars to the cog-wheel line at Resina. At the top there are guides to show one the way about. When I went down the crater in 1914 it was about 1,200 feet deep, but it has been gradually filling up from the small conelet in the crater floor, so that it is easy to go down the regular, long-established path. The crater is now only about 150 to 200 feet deep. Even if one does not go down, the sight of the cone, which is in a state of almost constant activity, is splendid. There is a good hotel, the "Eremo," at the base of the main cone, and I would advise, if one has the time, to spend the night there and see the volcano all around, walking through the Atrio del Cavallo and the Valle dell'Inferno, between the cone of Vesuvius and the encircling ring of Monte Somma, which is the remnant of the great explosion of 79 A. D., that destroyed Pompeii.

SOLFATARA—Near Naples is also the volcano called Solfatara, near Pozzuoli (take a taxi or tram), about half an hour. It is in a fumarolic condition, and, as I understand, has had a slight eruption recently.

ETNA—In Sicily the volcano is Etna, which is best visited from Catania. (Hotels Grande Bretagne and Bristol, the latter where I always stop). One must take a car to Nicolosi, having previously arranged for guides and horses to the top. The best way to see Etna is to start early in the morning to Nicolosi, have a second breakfast, and reach the "Observatory" about 10 a. m., a long climb horseback over the lava fields. One should spend the night there, seeing the shadow of the cone over the island at sunrise. (Incidentally, it's very cold at the summit, so one must take warm clothes, even in August). Then come down, on foot, through the Val del Bove, to Zafferana, whence one goes back to Catania by car or (I think now) by tram. Or one may return in the same day to Nicolosi, with the car waiting, and so back to Catania.

STROMBOLI, ETC.—Then there are the Aeolian Islands, Lipari, Vulcano, and Stromboli. These involve taking a little steamer (*Turn to next page*)

A Chemist's Europe

Chemistry

Information compiled by Prof. Ralph E. Oesper of the University of Cincinnati and used by courtesy of the *Journal of Chemical Education*, Dr. Neil E. Gordon, editor, which this spring will issue a special travel issue giving in greater detail information of interest to chemists with the wanderlust.

LONDON—*University College*: Profs. Donnan, Collie. *Imperial College*: Profs. Thorpe, Baker. *Fuel Institute*: Prof. Bone. These three institutions have well equipped laboratories. *Kensington Museum*: Historical apparatus of Graham, etc. *Royal Institution*: Laboratory of Davy and Faraday—now directed by Bragg, who specializes on crystal structure. *Royal Society*: Newton relics. *National Physical Laboratory*: Teddington. *Library of Chemical Society*: Best chemical collection in existence.

CAMBRIDGE—Prof. Pope, J. J. Thomson, Aston, etc. Good laboratory and typical English college community.

BRUSSELS—*New Technical High School*: Modern laboratories. *Solvay Institute*: Relics of Stas. *Academy of Sciences*: Wonderful assembly hall.

BONN—Prof. Pfeiffer. Kekule's laboratory and grave. Neanderthal skull.

FRANKFURT A. M.—Profs. Lorenz, Liesegang, V. Braun, Hahn. Modern laboratories.

GIESSEN—Prof. Elbs. The old Liebig laboratory should be seen by every student of organic chemistry.

HEIDELBERG—Prof. Freudenberg. Bunsen's laboratory entirely remodeled. Graves of Bunsen, Victor Meyer, Lossen, etc.

KARLSRUHE—Prof. Bredig, Goldschmidt. Haber's original ammonia apparatus; Hertz laboratory.

FREIBERG, I. B.—Prof. Staudinger-Gattermann's laboratory. Not particularly interesting.

BASEL—Prof. Bernoulli, Fichter. New physical chemistry institute with new features. Schönbein relics.

ZURICH—Profs. Henri, Treadwell, Debye, Scherrer, Fierz-David.

MUNICH—Profs. Wieland, Honigschmidt, Fajans, Vanino, Prandtl, Laboratory of Liebig, Baeyer, Willstätter. A busy institute in which first class work is done in organic, physical, rare earths and atomic weights. *Old South Cemetery*: Grave of Liebig, Fraunhofer. *Deutsches Museum*: Best (*Turn to next page*)

Prague the Polyglot

General Science

Reborn of the World War after generations of suppressed travail, Czechoslovakia is taking advantage of her new freedom to push forward very vigorously all departments of her national existence. Though there are a number of cities in the country which might repay a visit, the American on his European travels is likely to have time only for Prague, famous for a picturesque beauty uniquely its own.

The university situation in Prague is complicated by the fact that it is a bilingual city, due to the presence of many German-speaking inhabitants among the Czechs. This necessitates a double system of education, such as is found in some parts of Canada.

Museums in Prague include the National Museum, the Czechoslovak Ethnographical Museum, the Museum of the Anatomical Institute and a number of others.

One other spot in Czechoslovakia will be a place of pilgrimage for scientists; for biologists, and especially for geneticists, it is a Bethlehem that far outshines the capital. This is Brno, known before the

War as Brünn. It was here in the garden of the Augustinian monastery that Gregor Mendel raised his peas, and it was before the modest local scientific society that he read the two small papers which, years after his death, weighed more than all the ponderous volumes on heredity that existed before the opening of the present century.

Science News-Letter, April 7, 1928

Budapest

General Science

The visitor to Budapest will find its University well filled and hard at work, and the various agricultural and technical schools in like condition. Among the museums he will want to visit at least the Agricultural and the Silvicultural; also the Geological Institute, the Institute of Meteorology and Terrestrial Magnetism and the National Chemical Institute and Central Experiment Station. A special institute for the investigation of the properties and uses of the Eötvös torsion balance has existed at Budapest since 1907.

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Chemistry—Continued

technological and scientific museum in existence. Fine in chemistry, an educational feature of the first importance. *Museum of Academy of Science*: Excellent for mineralogy and zoology.

JENA—The Schott & Genossen glass factory and the Zeiss works are worth while.

LEIPSIK—Profs. Hantzsch, Paal, Rasso. Laboratories of Kolbe, Wislicenus. *Physikalisch-Chemisches Institut*: Ostwald's laboratory. Profs. LeBlanc, Böttger, Drucker, Wolfgang Ostwald.

DRESDEN—Profs. Foerster, Lottermoser. Newest laboratory in Germany and well worth a visit. *Photographic Institute*: Prof. Luther.

BERLIN—Profs. Schlenk, Paneth, Pringsheim, etc. Emil Fischer's laboratory. Largely remodeled. *Physikalisch-Chemisches Institute*: Prof. Bodenstein. *Kaiser Wilhelm Institute*: Prof. Freundlich, Stock, Hahn, Haber, etc. Research laboratories of greatest interest. *Reichsanstalt*: Corresponds to Bureau of Standards. *Technische Hochschule*: Prof. Hofmann. *Prussian State Library*: Darmstaedter Dokumenten Sammlung. Greatest collection of

scientific manuscripts and letters in existence. *Hofmann Haus*: Library of German Chemical Society. Home of *Chemisches Zentralblatt*, Beilstein etc.

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Volcanoes—Continued

from Milazzo to the little town of Lipari (Hotel Faranna, modest but decent). One visits Vulcano (always in a solfataric state) by row boat from Lipari (about one hour). For Stromboli one must take the steamboat and spend the night, or two, at San Vincenzo (no hotel, but can easily get a room). It takes about two hours to climb to the crater—a splendid sight, if it is going right.

OTHER VOLCANOES—Then there are the extinct volcanoes of the Alban Hills, (near Rome), the crater lakes of Bracciano, Lago di Bolsena (near Orvieto) and that near Viterbo (Vico). Viterbo is a wonderful old city in itself—quite apart from volcanoes. So is Orvieto, with its splendid cathedral.

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Uses of the Useless

Botany

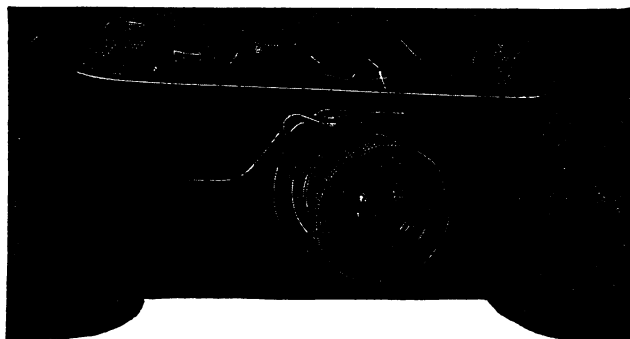
RAYMOND J. POOL AND ARTHUR T. EVANS, in *First Course in Botany* (Ginn):

Possibly one may wonder whether or not weeds can be valuable. In a few cases they are definitely of some worth. In cut-over areas where forests have been removed, weeds develop rapidly and are a great factor in the prevention of erosion. Soils may thus be held until a new succession is established on the area. It is largely because of weeds that plant successions do not at once return to the lowest type when a forest is removed.

Weeds are also of value in abandoned fields, where they prevent the drifting of soils by the action of the wind. Their utilization of water in such places is of little consequence, since no other crop is being grown. They perform another function in plowed fields: together with volunteer crop plants acting as weeds, they hold snow, thereby raising the moisture content and adding humus to the soil. Drifting snow is held in large banks over edges of fields near fence rows where weeds have grown unrestricted and is of some advantage. However, this is scarcely an argument in favor of such a shiftless practice as allowing fence rows to grow up to weeds, for the damage caused by weeds in the adjacent fields the following summer probably more than counter-balances the good that comes from the parent plants holding snow in the fields or fence rows.

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Three-fourths of the earthquakes are upheavals under the sea.

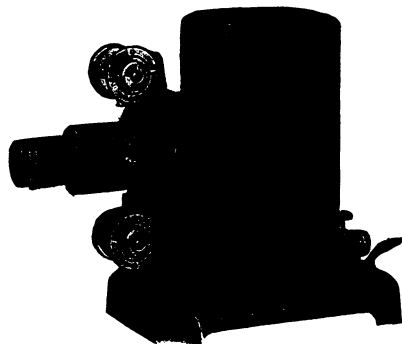


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