

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONTANA.

MONTANA possesses a health resort that will ere long rival in popularity and celebrity the famous Hot Springs of Arkansas. Lying in the mountains to the north of Bozeman and Livingston and to the east of Helena, a short stage journey is necessary to reach it from the line of the Northern Pacific. The nearest railroad point is Townsend, in the Missouri Valley, and from there the stage route of thirty-five miles leads through some of the grandest scenery of the Rocky Mountains. It crosses rugged spurs of the "Backbone of the Continent," and follows for a long distance the canyon of Deep Creek, so closely confined by its rocky walls that fifty-one bridges across that turbulent stream are necessary to give it room. It is after such a ride that the White Sulphur Springs are reached, lying in a valley 5,070 feet above the level of the sea, and at the base of mountains rising several thousand feet above. One of these overtopping peaks—Mount Edith—is clothed in a perpetual robe of white and reaches an altitude of 12,000 feet, exceeding even the proportions of the kingly Hood, the pride of Oregon.

The town of White Sulphur Springs is the seat of justice of Meagher County, and contains a population of some five hundred. The assessed valuation of property in the county is \$5,000,000, chiefly live stock. The town is a favorite place of residence for wealthy cattle and sheep men, and is the supply point for a vast extent of country both pastoral and mineral. Within fifty miles lies the Neihart mining district, in which a number of the most promising mines have been bonded by an association of St. Paul capitalists. When fully developed these will add much to the trade of the town. Several other mining localities are also tributary to this point. White Sulphur Springs is regularly laid out and contains a number of good buildings, several of them constructed of brick. Besides numerous business enterprises, there are a bank and one of the best weekly papers to be found in the Territory—the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, owned and edited by R. N. Sutherlin, ably assisted by W. H. Sutherlin.

The greatest interest, of course, centres around the springs. The medicinal properties of the water were known to the Indians long before the Rocky Mountains were invaded by white men. They held it as neutral, or sacred, ground, and often tribes that had been at war for generations met in peace by the side of these steaming waters. Indian tribes for hundreds of miles around visited the springs regularly to bathe in and drink their healing waters, and now even the dumb cattle come for miles in winter to drink the warm water as it flows in a meandering steam-clouded stream across the valley. The whole atmosphere seems to be impregnated with the sulphur mist, and as one approaches the town the presence of the springs is announced to him by the air he breathes as well as the clouds of steam arising from them and the little stream of which they are the source. Especially in winter is this steam made prominent by the frosty air, so much so as to render the bath house almost invisible to

one standing near the springs. The curative properties of these waters were early known and appreciated by the white people, and many visitors from a distance came to test their virtues. It was not, however, till 1883 that an adequate effort was made to improve them and furnish the facilities necessary to render them a popular health resort. At that time the White Sulphur Springs Association was organized, with A. Hershfield as president and I. Salhinger secretary.

The improvements of the association are not yet complete in accordance with the present plans, but as they now stand may be enumerated as follows: The springs have been enclosed in a large square and eleven of the hot ones have been opened and improved, as shown in our engravings. There are numerous others not yet opened. There are also one ice cold sulphur spring and one hot mud spring. A large brick bath house stands within the enclosure, in which are a number of regular bathing apartments and a large tank for taking a plunge bath. Baths are fifty cents each, or \$2.50 per week, limited to three per day. From thirty to ninety baths per day are given now, which will undoubtedly be largely increased in the future. Opposite the association has a small hotel for the accommodation of visitors. It is the intention to erect a splendid three-story brick, containing from sixty to seventy rooms, but even now visitors need feel no anxiety about obtaining first class accommodations both at the association hotel and the Higgins House. Board ranges from \$8 to \$14 per week. Near the hotel is a roller skating rink, and in the rear is a lake, a pleasant little sheet of water, in which exercise in a rowboat may be taken. The sportsman will find the adjacent mountains full of game and the streams abounding in fish.

Of the character of the water Mr. George Atwood, Fellow of the Chemical Society of England, who visited the springs and tested the water in person, says: "The water contains chiefly *fixed alkaline carbonates*. The excess of carbonic acid makes the water more palatable than it would otherwise be, and the small quantity of lime and silica, with a charge, yet not an overcharge, of the alkaline, combined with a moderate quantity of sulphur, makes the water not only a safe medicinal drink, but most beneficial for bathing purposes." The water, applied both internally and externally, has proved particularly beneficial in nervous diseases, sciatica and kindred disorders, is considered infallible in cases of indigestion, gout, etc., and is claimed to be a remedy for Bright's disease of the kidneys. It is also good for inebriates, and constitutes a pleasant substitute by the use of which a taste for liquor may be gradually overcome. The heat of the water varies ordinarily from 108 to 110 degrees, reaching sometimes the extreme of 122 degrees Fahrenheit. The association is very liberal in its treatment of the public. The enclosure is free to all, who may enter and drink of the water, and even carry it away in buckets if they choose. A constant stream of people may be seen daily going to and from the springs. The citizens of the town make a practice of drinking the water regularly. The business man and mechanic, and even