MURIATIC ACID LAKE. The Seething, By bbling Mineral Mass Found on White Island.

The Sectifing, Br bbling Mineral Mass Found on White Island. White Island is nearly circular and about inree miles in circumference, writes an Auckiand correspondent of the San Fran-cisco Chronicle. It consists of tall cliffs on three sides formed of rock and loose rub-bish thrown up from the crater. On the fourth side is a large flat many acres in ex-tent, broken in two places by tall and fan-tastic rocky eminences, which appear to have once formed part of the cliffs in which the flats would seem to be a fault. These cliffs are eight hundred feet in height, per-pendicular within and gently sloping to the see. Before you is a vast amphitheater of extraordinary tint. The wails of this basin, towering up to the sky, appear serrated at the edges and intersected along the face by an inextricable net-work of flasures and crevices. Landed in the ship's dingy on the bowlder-strewn beach, we find our-selves within the awe-inspiring inclosure of this wonderful place. A large plain of mineral deposit is before one, and on the right is seen a tramway leading up to what is known as the Adamant reef. In the cen-ter of this plain is the wonderful boiling lake. As we approach it along a well-beaten track the ground becomes of a chocolate color, and all at once the visitor is conscious of the most pungent orders as the fumes of the most pungent orders as the fumes from the surface of the boiling lake and the base of the surrounding walls of rock reach him. A few steps more and a mag-nificent scene bursts upon the view. Below you lies the most extraordinary tinted picture that poet, artist, explorer, novelist, tourist or special ever gazed upon. The general tone of the ground line is of a deep chocolate, the walls of rock around of that warm color known to artists as madder brown, relieved with rose madder, the edge

brown, relieved with rose madder, the edge of the lake a deep orange and the lake it-self a blending of the peculiar green of verdigris and lemon yellow. At the base of the rocks issue jets and clouds of vapor. The tint of this lake is probably due to the fact that as the volume of water has lessened the chemical properties in the water have become of greater strength, and some predominating over others give the present extraordinary hue. The lake is wimply a seething, bubbling mass of muriatic acid, and as the liquid boils up the bubbles have their sides in shadow, reflecting a green tinge, the whole surface emitting a vapor that very soon finds out your lungs vapor that very soon finds out your lungs and tickles the mucous membrane of your nose and throat, to say nothing of bringing

nose and threat, to say nothing of bringing to the eyes involuntary tears. To the right, following the natural basin of the island, is chaos itself—rocks, stones, chasms, streams, pools, lakelets in frantic confusion, these latter apparently all alive and each one bent on outshining if not outnoising one another. This was a sort of school-room for the apparent education of small volcances. Amid the hissing, sputter-ing, choking things could be seen here and there what looked like huge, mammoth golden cauliflowers boiling. These were sulphur formations.

No animal or insect breathes upon the island. Two hundred fathoms will hardly reach the bottom within half a mile of its shores. This island is the eastern limit of the extensive belt of volcanic agitation which extends from Mount Egmont through Tongariro, the Taupo Rotomahana lakes to Whale Island and the adjacent rocks, north

of which line earthquakes are rarely felt. An analysis of sulphur deposits on this island made in the New Zealand Geological island made in the New Zealand Geological Burvey Laboratory shows that one of yel-low sulphur contained 99.9 per cent. of sul-phur, that another of green sulphur con-tained 62.5 per cent. sulphur and that a third of impure sulphur contained 62.05 per cent. sulphur. The chief impurity was gypsum, which does not interfere with its distillation.

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sentatives of the War Office, who were so greatly struck by its performance that the Maxim Company has been requested to construct a twelve-pounder on the same principle, says the London Times.

About six years ago, when Mr. Maxim be-gan his experiments in automatic gunnery, he made certain alterations in a Martinihe made certain alterations in a Martin-Henry rife so that when it was fired the recoil opened the breech by dropping the block in the ordinary way, the block re-maining down until another cartridge was placed in position, when the breech auto-matically closed and the trigger could be again mulled. again pulled.

The gun lately tried is merely an applica-tion of this system on a large scale. It has the appearance of the quick firing three-pounder, is mounted on a cone in the same manner and is trained by a crutch on which he about the summer rests. When manner and is trained by a crutch on which the shoulder of the gunner rests. When the gun is loaded and the trigger is pulled the barrel of the gun recoils a distance of four inches, the breech remaining closed during the recoil. When, however, the bar-rel returns to the firing position the breach block is thrown downward, the hammer is cocked and the empty cartridge is ejected, the breech block remaining down until an-other cartridge is introduced. The act of placing the cartridge in the chamber liber-ates the block, which rises instantly, clos-ing the breech, and the gun can be fired again.

again. After firing the gun in the way described the trigger was fixed in the pulled position, a cartridge was fixed and its empty shell ejected. On introducing another cartridge it was fired in the same way without the in-tervention of the trigger, and so on with an indefinite number of cartridges, the gun outget it was fired in the same way without the in-tervention of the trigger, and so on with an indefinite number of cartridges, the gun outget it was fired in the chamber. This gun weighs no more than the ordinary quick-firing gun of the same caliber; the strain on the mounting is less, enabling it to be fired from a light torpedo boat without damage increased, with only one-half the usual gun detachment to work it.

Protty Havanese Feet.

Pretty Havanese Feet. Cuban women wear shoes no larger than the No. 1. Nor is this diminutive size the result of any pinching process. She is born that way. That is, her foot. You could hold two of them in your one hand. And, whatever the woman's weight or size, the foot is universally this dainty and beautiful ing. Its areh is wonderful. But one thing about it offends the foreigner's eye. That is the high, narrow heel, two or three inches long and scarcely a third of an inch at its mrowest part. One feels afraid of acci-dents and controlowys from it. But the pretty-footed woman is a sure-footed one-she is the most graceful woman on her feet, or in the dance you ever saw. Bo this sin-ewy, live grace must also be inbred --s part of the grain, fiber, blood and very spirit back of them.

A Wealthy Alaska Squaw.

A Wealthy Alaska Squaw. Mrs. Captain Tom is the name of the rich-est Indian woman in Alaska. She is worth about \$20,000, and lives royally at Sitks, surrounded by slaves. She supported two husbands until lately, having to give up one when she joined the Presbyterian mission. Mrs. Tom is ugly, fat and over forty, and is a shrowd trader.