At night, when the gas has been lighted, the spectacle of one of these "fire-geysers" is inconceivably grand.[93]

Geysers.—Eruptive fountains of hot water and steam, to which the general name of Geysers (*i.e.* gushers) is given, from the examples in Iceland, which were the first to be seen and described, mark a declining phase of volcanic activity. The Great and Little Geysers, the Strokkr and other minor springs of hot water in Iceland, have long been celebrated examples. More recently another series has been discovered in New Zealand. But probably the most remarkable and numerous assemblage is that which has been brought to light in the northwest part of the territory of Wyoming, and which has been included within the "Yellowstone National Park"—a region set apart by the Congress of the United States to be forever exempt from settlement, and to be retained for the instruction of the people. In this singular region the ground in certain tracts is honeycombed with passages which communicate with the surface by hundreds of openings, whence boiling water and steam are emitted. In most cases, the water remains clear, tranquil, and of a deep green-blue tint, though many of the otherwise quiet pools are marked by patches of rapid ebullition. These pools lie on mounds or sheets of sinter, and are usually edged round with a raised rim of the same substance, often beautifully fretted and streaked with brilliant colors. The eruptive openings usually appear on small,

[93] Ashburner, Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc. xvii. (1877), p. 127. Stowell's Petroleum Reporter, 15th Sept. 1879. Second Geol. Survey of Pennsylvania, containing Reports by J. Carll, 1877, 1880. J. S. Newberry, "The First Oil Well." Harper's Magazine, Oct. 1890. On the naphtha districts of the Caspian Sea, Abich, Jahrb. Geol. Reichs. xxix. (1879), p. 165. H. Sjögren, op. cit. xxxvii. (1887), p. 47. C. Marvin, "Region of Eternal Fire," London, 1884. See also for phenomena in Gallicia, Jahrb. Geol. Reichs. xv. pp. 199, 351; xvii. p. 291; xviii. p. 311; xxxi. (1881), p. 131. Proc. Inst. Civ. Engineers, xlii. (1875), p. 343.