

Compared to our own substantial planet, though, these globes would be rather flimsy worlds. The material of which Saturn is made has only six tenths the density of water. A ball made of it would float, like those the children toss about in the water in summer. The Jupiter globes would be more molasses-like in their consistency or rather like the dense, compressed vapors of which the main body of the sun consists. The sun and Jupiter are almost the same in density and Jupiter is believed to be a very small sun that has cooled off.

Compared with these globes, our own earth, with an average density twice that of its surface rocks, is like a ball of iron. Possibly our earth has a core of iron. Its interior may be made of the same stuff as the iron meteorites that get trapped by the earth's atmosphere now and then and fall to the surface of the earth. Some think these are fragments of an exploded world or remnants of the stuff from which the solar system was originally fashioned.

Now is an opportune time to take a look at either of these giants of the solar system. Even a small, three-inch telescope will show much that is interesting on either of them. The rings of Saturn are now well opened up and present a unique and beautiful sight. You may see the belts running parallel to the planet's equator and at least one or two of the brighter satellites. On Jupiter the belts can be seen very clearly, and the white spots and splotches of color, too. Perhaps there will also be visible a satellite or its shadow projected on the disk. Or, by chance another of its satellites may be caught suddenly disappearing as it dips into the shadow of the huge planet.—*Isabel M. Lewis.*

"CRATERS OF THE MOON"

Bulletin of the National Geographic Society

"Craters of the Moon" is the United States' youngest national monument.

On May 2, President Coolidge signed the order setting aside a little-known district in Idaho for a national monument. It is a wild, colorful region containing one of the most unusual volcanic fields in America. From the twisted brilliant contours of frozen lava fields and crimson cones and the absence of verdure, it takes its official name, "Craters of the Moon National Monument."

Of "Craters of the Moon," lying along the Lincoln highway between Carey and Arco, Idaho, R. W. Limbert writes in a communication to the National Geographic Society: "Although almost totally unknown at present, this section is destined some day to attract tourists from all America, for its lava flows are as interesting as those of Vesuvius, Mauna Loa or Kilauea. The district consists of some 63 volcanic craters, lava and cinder cones, all at present extinct or dormant. The largest and most conspicuous is 600 feet high, rising in the midst of a belt of craters two or three miles wide and 30 miles long. The major flows, the Blue Dragon Flow and the Pahoehe Flow roughly parallel the Lincoln highway and are but two to five miles from it. A wagon trail

from the national road goes into the rocky volcanic desert a short way.

"Stretching to the southwest for about 11 miles, we saw perhaps one of the most remarkable lava flows in the world," continues R. W. Limbert, describing the Blue Dragon Flow. "Its color is a deep cobalt blue with generally a high gloss, as if the flow had been given a coat of blue varnish. The surface is netted and veined with small cracks, having the appearance of the scales of some prehistoric reptile. It merits the name Blue Dragon, as in many places it has burst through the crevasse of an older flow, and the ropy twists of blue lava spreading out in branches, together with its scaled surface, need but little stretch of imagination to suggest the claws and legs of a dragon.

"In appearance the 'Craters of the Moon' flows seem as if they had happened only yesterday, but in reality the latest probably occurred about 150 or possibly 200 years ago. The total area of the six young lava flows is about 300 square miles, while that extending above and below this point along the Snake River plains reaches the astounding total of approximately 27,000 square miles. Of the 300 square miles of lava desert, some 40 square miles have been set aside by President Coolidge. 'Craters of the Moon National Monument' is about 150 miles southwest of Yellowstone National Park.

"Picture yourself standing in some vast amphitheater whose towering walls are a riot of yellow, green, orange, brown and black, with brick red and vermilion predominating," Mr. Limbert writes in describing the district. "Imagine, too, an awesome, enveloping silence. I noticed that at places we had nothing to say. It was little wonder the Indians feared and shunned the region.

"East of the Bridge of Tears we came to the entrance of what we afterwards decided to call Amphitheater Cave. Climbing down, we found ourselves on the east side of a room some 40 feet wide and 60 feet long, with a domed ceiling 20 feet high. As we sat on the north side, we beheld to the south a perfect stage. The floor was double, the lower section being about 8 feet lower than the top of the floor above, which was 15 feet wide. It was almost an exact model of a modern theater. At the top of the dome the roof had caved in, leaving a circular skylight 6 inches in diameter.

"By lining flights of doves, five water holes were located in old volcanic blowholes or fumaroles. Dipping up a cupful of water we were astonished to find it icy cold, so cold, in fact, that it hurt our teeth, and we put the cup down on the hot rocks to warm. This phenomenon can only be accounted for by the supposition that it was the seepage water from one of the ice caves, of which we found a number. One water hole was covered with an inch coat of drowned hornets that had been chilled and had fallen in. The water underneath was pure and sweet. We called this Yellow Jacket Water Hole."

ACIDOPHILUS MILK

Yale University News Statement

ACIDOPHILUS milk, which represents more than ten

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