

A Volcanologic Reconnaissance of Southern Chile

POR

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On June 8, 1929 the writer of this note was appointed by the Hawaiian Volcano Research Association to explore and report on the volcanoes of southern Chile, especially in the district near Calbuco volcano, which had been active on Jan. 6, 1929. A detailed report will be published in another place, the object of this note being to invite the co-operation of Chilean students interested in volcanoes in promoting the investigation of the volcanoes of their country.

The Hawaiian Volcano Research Association is a corporation under the laws of Hawaii, governed by a board of directors, and financed by the subscriptions of its members and patrons. Its aims are (1) to keep record of Hawaiian volcanism, (2) to attract volcanologic specialists to Hawaii, and (3) to promote world-wide knowledge of volcanoes and earthquakes and the foundation of more volcano observatories. In 1911 the Association founded the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory on the rim of the crater of Kilauea Volcano on the island of Hawaii. The observatory was transferred to the United States Government in 1919 and is now operated by the U. S. Geological Survey, but the Association continues to co-operate by furnishing special funds, apparatus, and workers as required by the Government Volcanologist and Director of the observatory, Dr. T. A. Jaggar.

The main purpose of the writer's trip was to decide which volcano of southern Chile is best suited for constant observation. Because of their inaccessibility the very high volcanoes in the cordillera east of Santiago and also those of the extreme south were not considered. Starting from the city of Talca the writer was

unable to visit the active volcano "Quizapu" situated east of that city near Cerro Azul, but passing to the south he visited in turn the volcanoes *Chillan*, *Antuco*, *Llaima*, *Villarrica*, *Osorno* and *Calbuco*, and observed from a little distance those of *Trolguaca*, *Lonquimai*, *Quetrupillan*, *Shoshuenco*, and *Puyehue*. The mere enumeration of this list of volcanoes all at least potentially active and all lying between the latitudes of 36° and 42° south shows what a great field of volcano research is offered by southern Chile. Moreover the occasional damage caused by volcanic eruptions and the more serious effects of accompanying earthquakes here in the heart of Chile give a practical reason for studying them in the attempt to minimize those effects.

On his visits to these volcanoes the writer took many photographs, collected specimens of the rocks, and more especially recorded whatever data he could find relating to known eruption. He will feel greatly indebted to any readers of this note who will send him newspaper-clippings, personal accounts, or photographs relating to Chilean volcanoes. They may be sent in care of the writer's friend, Prof. Porter, the editor of this "Revista".

