



A GUSHER.

it is the solid rock itself which is the reservoir for the oil. When a piece of oil rock is examined under a powerful glass, millions of tiny interstices appear between the different sand grains. This porous, oil-bearing sand stone may very readily contain one-tenth or one-eighth of its bulk in petroleum. Indeed, some of the oil sands of the Russian fields have been estimated to contain not less than

one-fifth of their bulk in petroleum.

The accumulation of oil in the earth, therefore, would seem to call for the presence of a coarse grained porous rock which may be roughly described as a reservoir divided into infinitesimal compartments. The usual reservoir rocks are sandstone, which explains the common term "oil sands," although certain limestones and occasionally conglomerates serve the same purpose, but whatever the character of the reservoir rock, it must be covered over by some non-porous layer whose impervious nature holds the oil until the drill penetrates the strata, releasing the pent-up gas, oil, or water, so that the liquid comes to the surface, either by the natural pressure, or by pumping.