

Under date of May 28th two interesting reports were received from Captain M. A. Healy of the United States revenue cutter Corwin describing a visit to the recently upheaved volcano in Behring sea at the northern end of Bogosloff Island

This volcano, which is in a state of constant and intense activity, was discovered in September, 1883, by Capt. Anderson, but no landing had been made upon it previous to the visit of the officers of the Corwin. It is described as a dull gray, irregular, cone-shaped hill, about 500 feet in height, from the sides and summit of which great volumes of vapor were arising. At the height of about two thirds the distance from the base to the apex of the cone, there issued a very regular series of large steam jets, which extended in a horizontal direction completely across the north-western face of the hill. Around these jets were seen upon nearer approach deposits of sulphur of various hues, which at a distance looked like patches of vegetation. The ascent was covered by a layer of ashes into which the climbers sank knee-deep. As the summit was neared the heat of these ashes became unbearable. On all sides of the cone were crevices from which issued steam with more or less energy, and in some instances at regular intervals like the exhaust of a steam engine. In some of these the temperature was estimated at 500 deg. F. The interior of the crater could not be seen on account of the vapor.

GENERAL.

A cremation society has been organized in Boston. The fee for membership is twelve dollars annually, and includes the right of the member to have his body cremated without further expense. The company intend to establish a crematory at the earliest opportunity, and a site has already been selected. This will be the sixth institution of the kind in the world.

A laboratory for bacterial research has been founded in the pathological institute of Mun-

ich, and the first course of lectures, founded on Dr. Koch's latest methods, has begun.

The British Association has invited the members of the American Association to join in the meeting at Montreal, and the American Association has in turn invited the members of the British Association, with their near relatives who may be with them, to take part in the Philadelphia meeting.

Platinum wire has been drawn down so fine by Mr. H. F. Read, of Brooklyn, as to be invisible to the naked eye, although its presence upon a perfectly white card could be detected by the touch, and could be seen with the aid of a small magnifying glass when the card was held in such a position that the wire cast a shadow. A number 18 platinum wire was placed in a tightly fitting, thin cylinder of silver, and drawn through until the cylinder "lost its grip;" the platinum was then drawn through another and another cylinder in the same manner, until the above fineness was acquired, and the silver was reduced to merely a coating. The wire was to be for cross wires in telescopes which require no strength.

According to *Nature*, several officers of the Russian navy have submitted to the minister, Admiral Shastakoff, a new scheme of a polar expedition. Recognising the extreme difficulty, if not absolute impossibility, of reaching the north pole by sea, these officers propose to start an expedition on sledges from the New Siberia islands, which are nine hundred miles distant from the pole. The sledge-parties will make depots of provisions at suitable intervals as they slowly but surely journey north, and thus secure a safe return. The scheme is to be submitted to the learned societies, and necessary funds raised by subscriptions.

The Albert medal of the Society of Arts has been awarded by the council of the society, with the approval of the Prince of Wales (the president), to Capt. James Buchanan Eads, "the American engineer whose works