THE NEW ZEALAND VOLCANIC ZONE.

H. M. CADELL describes a visit to the New Zealand Volcanic Zone (Trans. Edinburgh Geol. Soc., VII., 1897, 183–200), with particular references to the changes caused by the eruption of 1886, when the famous Rotomahana terraces were destroyed. A peculiar result followed the shower of fine ashes which coated the region for miles around, and which, when wet with rain, formed an impervious, clay-like cloak. Before the eruption the region was covered with vegetation, and rainfall was slowly discharged. After the ash-cloak was laid on, the surface became water-tight, 'like the slated roof of a house,' and shed the rainfall in streams which united in fierce torrents and excavated deep gorges in the valley floors. Two new lakes, replacing Rotomahana, had a joint area of 25 acres in 1886, shortly after the eruption; in 1893 the water had risen over 400 feet, the two lakes had united, and their area exceeded 5,600 acres. A further rise of about 100 feet will be needed for overflow. The great fissure along which numerous explosive craters were formed in 1886 is briefly described.

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CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

ONTARIO ARCHÆOLOGICAL REPORT.

MR. DAVID BOYLE'S annual archæological report to the Minister of Education, Ontario, is, as usual, rich with descriptions of interesting additions to the museum, and information attractive to students of local antiquities (pp. 87, Toronto, 1898, Pub. Doc.). All the material was removed and rearranged during the year, and it is now installed to much better advantage. The report is illustrated with over fifty figures in the text, representing stone and metal remains, village sites, textile work, engraved shells, bone implements, etc. Some ancient maps are reproduced from early explorers, and Mr. A. F. Hunter adds a useful bibliography of the archæology of Ontario.

THE PUEBLO OF TAOS.

IN the form of an inaugural dissertation, Mr. Merton Leland Miller has issued from the press of the University of Chicago a pleasant description of the Pueblo of Taos, New Mexico. In 1896 he passed three months in this ancient settlement of the Tiguas Indians, and noted the peculiarities of their lives and environment. These he sets forth in a clear style, and discusses the questions of origin and affinities from the view-point of the practical observer. He is inclined to adopt the conclusion that these and most of the pueblo-dwellers are a mixed population, the Shoshonean blood predominating.

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NOTES ON INORGANIC CHEMISTRY

IN the last *Proceedings* of the Chemical Society (London) a new method of making hydrocyanic acid is described by John Wade and L. C. Panting. A cold mixture of equal volumes of concentrated sulfuric acid and water is allowed to drop on 98% 'lump' potassium cyanid. The prussic acid evolved is almost theoretical in amount, and is nearly anhydrous, and may be readily collected in quantity by suitable condensing apparatus. This method offers great advantages over that usually employed. When, in the place of a diluted acid, concentrated sulfuric acid is allowed to drop in the potassium cyanid, nearly pure carbon monoxid is evolved, and this also in nearly theoretical quantities, traces only of hydrocyanic acid being present. In this reaction the sulfuric acid plays at the same time the part of both hydrolysing and dehydrating agent.

THE same *Proceedings* contains a paper by W. C. Reynolds on concentrated solu-