SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE VOLCANIC HISTORY OF LASSEN PEAK[1]

WILL there be another great volcanic explosion from the summit of Lassen Peak this spring? is a burning question among those scientists who are studying the recent performance of that old volcano. A feeble explosion May 30, 1914, opened a new period of volcanic play, and on May 19 and 22, 1915, the greatest and most devastating eruptions occurred. As these dates are about the time of maximum annual snow-melts at Lassen Peak, they suggest a causal relation to the volcanic activity. If so, perhaps another large eruption may be due in May, 1916, and throw more light on the volcanic problem.

Lassen Peak is in northeast California and forms the southern end of the Cascade Range. It stands between the northern end of the Sierra Nevada and the Klamath Mountains, a mighty volcano that rises to an elevation of more than a mile above the early Tertiary and Cretaceous sedimentary rocks on which it rests. It is on the edge of one of the greatest lava fields in the world, extending from northern California, Oregon and Washington eastward across Idaho into the Yellowstone National Park of Wyoming, and covering an area of about 250,000 square miles. Over the eastern portion of this field most of the lava is basalt, which was very liquid at the time of its eruption and, spreading far and wide like water, it formed a flattish country, the great plains of Snake River and the Columbia, but along the western border the lava

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