

that it was one of his hobbies to enjoy the luxury of hot baths in the company of his friends and favourites, discussing politics, history, etc., and thus making of this primitive little bath place a miniature of an ancient Roman Bath Club. There is still existent an ominous verse, composed by one of his friends, as the conclusion of a conversation taking place at one of these Bath Club meetings.

About 4 km. away from Reykjaholt, down the valley, there is an interesting freak of nature, called *Árhver*. This is a rock more than 2 metres high, standing in the middle of a cold river and having at its top several boiling springs.

ÁSBYRGI

Ásbyrgi is some 25 km. north of Dettifoss. It is a semi-circular formed cleft or ravine of great dimensions and, except on the north side, it is enclosed by very high vertical cliffs, having in the middle a large perpendicular rock or island, corresponding to the frog of a horse's hoof. Hence the comparison of this place with a horse's hoof and the poetic legend of its being the hoofmark of *Sleipnir*, the steed of the god *Óðinn*.

VOLCANOES

Of *Icelandic volcanoes* the destructive *Mt Hekla* is by far the most renowned and credited with eighteen eruptions since 1104; its last outbreak took place in 1845, but in 1878 and again in 1913 there were volcanic disturbances in its vicinity.

Mt Hekla has the altitude of 1446 metres above sea level. On a perfectly clear day the view from the top is one of the grandest and most varied to be found in the island; and owing to the renowned clearness of the Icelandic atmosphere, one can see mountains lying more than 150 km. away. Most of the glaciers in the country are visible and the south lowland lies at the feet of the spectator, with all its rivers, lakes, farms and mountains. The rugged lava all round the mountain and the two big craters at the top of it, give ample evidence of the fact that this is a mighty volcano.

Askja is a crater of the immense dimension of more than 50 square km. It is encircled by a ring of mountains called *Dyngjufjöll*, situated near the eastern skirt of the large lava desert *Ódáðahraun*, in the interior of Iceland. It is chiefly renowned for its terrible eruption in 1875. In the last few years this crater has also had two or three minor eruptions.

The craters of *Mt Laki* number over one hundred, extending in