

the topmost layer of lava and forming a series of waterfalls, as it finds its way down the northern wall of the rift, into the foaming river.

Glymur has a very small volume of water, but its height is a good deal more than 100 metres, where it leaps into a narrow chasm of proportional depth, and the scenery from here is most magnificent. It is about 5 km. away from the head of *Hvalfjörður*, one of the finest firths in Iceland. The quickest way to reach it from Reykjavík is to take a motor boat (4 or 5 hours).

LAKES

Hvítárvatn. This lake covers an area of rather more than 50 sq. kilometres and is situated about 435 metres above sea level, under the south-western rampart of the great glacier regions of *Langjökull*. From the shore of the lake a very steep mountain, *Skriðufell*, rises to about 1000 m. above the lake surface. At each end of *Skriðufell* a glacier comes down with a sweep into the lake, presenting the appearance from a distance of two gigantic waterfalls. Every now and then huge icebergs break off from the glaciers and are seen floating all over the lake. On the eastern shore of the lake is a very rich pasture land, stretching over an area of about 30 sq. km., where big flocks of wild geese, swans and sea-gulls are seen all the summer. The lake is also said to be teeming with char. The river *Hvítá* drains the lake and is already a big river up there.

Mývatn lies some 100 km. from Akureyri and covers an area of about 30 sq. km. The lake itself and its environments present one of the most beautiful views obtainable in Iceland, and the peculiar formation of the lava and the countless craters here, are said to be a fair representation of the landscape in the moon as viewed through a powerful telescope. The solfataras at *Reykjahlíð*, near the north-eastern end of the lake, are also very interesting.

As to *Thingvallavatn* see pp. 175—176.

EXCURSIONS

The best time for touring in Iceland is from the middle of June till late in September.

Reykjavík is by far the best starting point for tourists in Iceland.

MOTORING

Until quite recently the pony has been the only means of inland communication, but during the last 30 years or so, a good many roads