

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE SECTION

The World's Famous Waterfall

IN THE mountains of the Philippines are some beautiful waterfalls. Some of these, especially the falls at Pagsanjan, Laguna, are well known. There are also beautiful waterfalls in Japan, the well-known waterfall in Africa known as Victoria Falls, and others in various countries.

But probably the most famous waterfall in the world is Niagara Falls in the United States. It is on the Niagara River which flows between the state of New York and the province of Ontario, Canada.

This well known waterfall is about 165 feet high. It is said that more than 100,000,000 cubic feet of water passes over the falls in an hour. The rush of the river is such that the water is shot 120 feet out from the cliff. The water is gradually wearing away the rock, so that the waterfall is moving slowly backward at the rate of five feet a year.

Below the falls the river rushes with great speed down the sloping bottom of a narrow chasm for a distance of seven miles. About three miles below the falls a sudden turn in the channel causes the water to whirl in a vast circular basin before continuing its journey down the river. Logs and other floating material sometimes continue whirling there for many days.

On each side of the falls in a beautiful public park. The park on the American side is maintained by the state of New York, and the one on the Canadian side is maintained

by the Canadian government.

At night colored lights—red, green, blue, and other colors—are thrown on the glistening white falls. The ever changing colors of the falls and the mist make one of the most beautiful sights in the world.

It is said that in ancient times the American Indian tribe living near the falls offered in sacrifice a beautiful Indian girl, who was placed in a decorated canoe set afloat in the river above the falls. When the canoe went over the great cataract, she was dashed to pieces on the rocks below, as a sacrifice to the Indian gods.

On page 65 will be found a number of views of different places at Niagara Falls, made from actual photographs. Beginning at the left there is a photograph showing a general view of Niagara. Below this is a part of the falls known as Horseshoe Falls because it is shaped like a horseshoe. Below it is another view of the same falls as seen from Canada. In the lower left corner is a picture of the whirlpool rapids already referred to. In the upper right corner is a picture of the river above the falls. Below it is a view of another part of the falls on the American side. Below that is a part of the falls known as the Rock of Ages. The tourist, dressed in a rubber suit of clothing, may go *behind* a part of the falls by walking along the narrow bridge shown in the picture. In the picture in the lower right corner may be seen the great whirlpool to



which reference has been made.

The tourist who visits the eastern part of the United States should not miss a trip to Niagara Falls, the world's most famous

waterfall. This is a very beautiful place to visit at any time of the year, and thousands of tourists from all parts of the world go there annually.