

and of Thau, near Cette, on the Mediterranean coast of France; and the *Grande Lagune*, in the Gulf of Mexico.

Perhaps we ought to include under this division the beautiful lagoons which sleep, encircled by a ring of coral, in the palm-fringed islands of the South Pacific.

Lakes occasionally present a very curious fact; namely, the blending of several reservoirs of fresh water with reservoirs of salt water. To the north of the Caspian, the traveller sees, in a wide and level plain, a throng of little lakes, some of which contain fresh water, and others water charged with marine salt or sulphate of magnesia, in quantities varying according to the season of the year. There are lakes in Tibet which hold in solution boracic acid, and this acid is only found in the same condition in certain lakes or *lagoni* of Tuscany. It is from these sources our chemists obtain their supplies of a substance which is of great usefulness in pharmacy and the arts.*

In Tuscany the name *lagoni* is given to small natural or artificial lakes, produced by the condensation of the jets of water and vapour which issue from the soil, in somewhat the same manner as the *geysers* of Iceland. They are projected into the air with great impetuosity, diffusing a sulphurous odour. In falling back, they form the lakelets already mentioned.

The saltness and density of the waters of the great salt lakes are frequently greater than those of the ocean, as may be observed in the Dead Sea and the Lake of Urimeyeh.

The phenomenon of lunar tides (though on a very small scale) has been ascertained to exist in Lake Michigan and other vast inland reservoirs.

The accidental tides called *seiches*, which affect the levels of the Lake of Geneva, Lake Wetteren in Sweden, and many others, are

* [Boracic acid is also found in the crater of a mountain in the island *Vulcano*. The Tuscan supply, however, is the largest and most important. Native boracic acid is employed as a source of borax, and consists of about three-fourths of pure acid and one-fourth of water.]