

## BROWN COAL AND THE EGER BASIN

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The new dams in the Eger (Cheb) area serve mainly as a reservoir utilized in the exploitation of brown coal by the two large enterprises — the so-called brown coal combines — of the neighboring Falkenau (Sokolov) district. But the Eger basin also has an extensive, virtually untouched coal seam. The author points to the geological factors involved in the formation of coal deposits along the graben-shaped steep southern slopes of the Erzgebirge, and to the occurrence of thermal waters and other post-volcanic phenomena which led to the establishment of world-famous spas. The most important such health resorts along the 140-kilometer-long line from Aussig (Ústí nad Labem) to Eger (Cheb) are Teplitz-Schönau (Teplice), Karlsbad (Karlovy Vary) and Franzensbad (Františkovy Lázně). The author describes the serious dangers faced by these spas as a result of the development of brown coal mining since the last century, and demonstrates why — especially after recent occurrences — it is most unlikely that new coal deposits will be opened up in the Eger basin.