

rope snake out behind it. Good shot! The harpoon buries itself in the back of the monster just forward of the hump. but bad luck, too! The bull whale has been hit and the fickle female has dived steeply and is gone.

Startled and pained, the harpooned bull charges off at full speed and away hisses the rope. After him goes the chaser, holding him while he surfaces, paying out the line as he dives, playing him as any fisherman plays a big fish. A half-hour of twists, turns, and dives, and the big fellow tires. The chasers close in for the kill.

Cautiously the launches edge in beside the labouring whale, and as one boat passes the gunner drives a long lance



Cutting up the carcass.

deep into the whale's back. This is a javelin of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. piping with a razor-sharp head of inch piping. The head contains four sticks of gelignite and a detonator attached by cable to the launch. As the boat swings away the charge is fired and after a dull explosion the whale lies sickly on the surface.

But he is not yet dead. Neither harpoon nor bomb is intended to be immediately vital, and now the whaler must inflate the carcass with air before the death-blow is given. Again the chaser draws alongside the monster and another $\frac{1}{2}$ in. pipe is driven into his stomach. This is connected to a compressor by ordinary hose-pipe, and for about four minutes air is pumped into the dying whale. Floating now quietly and safely on the surface, the whale is despatched with another bomb plunged into his neck.

The whale is now secured to the chaser and towed off to the fleet's tug, the "Tuatea," which is waiting close by. Here a wire cable is passed through its tail and it is drawn alongside the ship to be towed back to the factory.

Meanwhile the look-out, or the man in the crow's nest of the tug, may have sighted another whale, and off race the chasers again.

Only two of the boats join in the chase of a whale. One is kept in reserve in case a launch should be put out of commission, as happened when one whale pushed his nose through the bottom of the boat. The other waits until the chase is ended, when it may join the unsuccessful boat in another chase while the victor is handing over its catch.

The "Tuatea" goes out behind the chasers and waits to receive their captures. She can tow five whales at a time, and so the chasers do not have to tow the whales too far. The little boats are far more valuable in the chase itself where they consume about 30 gallons of petrol an hour. Their range is four hours.

The killing technique is peculiar to the Tory Channel whalers and has been developed and perfected by the Perano Family, who own the station. The principle is to keep the whale alive until the injected air ensures that it will float. A whale killed immediately will sink to the ocean bed, and then there is some chance of the carcass being lost. Also, if the harpoon strikes too high and enters the whale's brain the beast will go mad and become entirely unmanageable.

A long chase in the old days meant that the oarsmen might have to tow the whale for many hours before reaching the safety of the Sounds. To-day both whales and chasers are towed back to Whakenui by their powerful tug.

The busiest spot in the Sounds is the Perano Factory when the chasers are collecting a good bag. Some say it is also the smelliest.

The "Tuatea" deposits the dead whales in the bay and they are drawn by winch tail first up the slip-way to the flensing boards. Here the butchers are