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PETROLEUMS AND COALS.

COMPARED IN THEIR NATURE, MODE OF OCCURRENCE AND ORIGIN.

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(Annual Meeting, Montreal, March, 1909),

There is found in nature a great variety of compounds of carbon, not only in the sedmentary strata of all ages, but also in crystalline rocks, in igneous and volcanic rocks, in seams and veins through all these, and even in meteorites.

All these earbon-compounds have been assigned by many geologists to the one and the same origin, namely:-an organic origin, from the decomposition or distillation of either animal or vegetable organic matter entombed in the strata, and they have all been grouped and classed in the one and the same series of compounds of carbon.

This organic origin cannot of course hold good for the natural carbon-compounds found in crystalline rocks, in igneous and volcanic rocks, in volcanic gaseous emanations, in metallic seams and veins where they are intimately associated with such minerals as quicksilver for instance, and also when they are found in meteorites. It has, therefore, always seemed to me that this idea of only one natural series of compounds of carbon with an organic origin, is so clearly at variance with so many well known geological facts and physical laws that I cannot cease to wonder how it is possible for such a huge error to have taken the firm root it has in the science of geology. In two papers which I read before this Institute, one nine years ago $(^1)$ and one six years ago $(^2)$.

Journ. Can. Min. Inst., Vol. III, 1900, pp. 68-89.
Journ. Can. Min. Inst., Vol. VI, 1903, pp. 73-128.