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origin in the decomposition of the mollusks, according to the reasoning used.

There are a few instances cited in geology of partially decomposed and preserved remains of animal bodies having been found, but these are most exceptional cases, such as a few remains preserved in the antiseptie waters of peat bogs or a few frozen remains of Elephas. These exceptions of course only confirm the rule, which is, namely:—when there is anything left of animal life in the strata it is the shells or bones, or their moulds or casts, but there is no trace of the flesh or soft tissues to be found, as none of it was entombed.

All that has been written, therefore, about petroleums being derived by distillation or otherwise from the soft remains o animal organisms, whether macroscopic or microscopic, entombed in the strata cannot possibly have taken place in the natura geological processes, since no such remains were ever entombed in the strata. C. Engler, C. M. Warren, F. H. Storer, S. P. Sadtler and others (49) have experimented and produced hydrocarbons by destructive distillation of organic animal matter, and these syntheses are often quoted by some geologists as very strong proofs in explaining the origin of the natural hydrocarbons in a similar way, but as it has been shown above it is impossible to suppose that there could be any similar normal process in nature, since not only the soft parts of the animal organisms were never entombed in the strata but the sediments in the oil-fields were also never subjected to the high temperature required for the destructive distillation in such experiments, namely between 300° and 400°. bit

2nd.—Now as to the vegetation:—<u>Ht is</u> not also absolutely and most abundantly proven that vegetation decomposes naturally into the coal series of carbon-compounds, and are not all the members of this coal series found all there in the sedimentary strata? Nothing more can be asked from vegetation. Are not all the stages, the beginning, the middle and the end of its gradual carbonizing process into peat, lignite, soft coal, semi-anthracite and anthracite right there before us even since the very beginning of vegetation in Silurian or Cambrian times? Are we to disbelieve what we see to have taken place by the billions of tons during all 49. Bulletin U.S. Geol. Surv., No. 330, pp. 629, 630.

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