gen than the Albert coal analysed by Wetherell; while the idrialine or bitumen found with the mercury ores of Idria, approaches very nearly in composition to the bituminous coals 11, 12 and 13, with which many asphalts may be said to be isomeric. It is however probable that those oxygenized bitumens, unlike the coals, are products of the oxydation of naphtha or petroleum, by a process similar to that by which resins are derived from vegetable hydrocarbons. These formulas must be taken as representing not the true equivalents, but only the proportions of the elements in the bodies in question, which are in most cases mixtures of various substance. This is especially true of naphtha, which may be taken as the representative of pure unoxydised petroleum, and which is separated by distillation into oils of very different boiling points. The late analyses by Uelsmann of the rectified rock oil from Sehnde near Hanover, gave the formula $C_{18}H_{20}$, and according to De la Rue and Müller the greater part of the Rangoon petroleum consists of hydrocarbons in which the number of equivalents of hydrogen is a little greater than the carbon; one gave $C_{26}H_{28}$. Associated with these are however portions of bodies containing a less proportion of hydrogen, so that we may conceive the mean composition of petroleum to be represented, as in the preceding table, by equal equivalents of hydrogen and carbon; many forms of solid bitumen also, as ozokerite and hatchetine, have the same general composition.

By referring to what has been said above it will be seen that the final result of the third process of decomposition of woody fibre, in which the air being excluded, the oxygen is shared between the carbon and hydrogen, would be $C_{20}H_8$. A similar result would be obtained, with the simultaneous evolution of marsh gas, if we suppose $6\ CO_2 + 8\ HO + 3\ CH_2$ to be removed from an equivalent of woody fibre, leaving $C_{15}H_6 = C_{20}H_8 = C_{24}H_{9.5}$, which approaches the composition of most bituminous coals and of idrialine. A farther elimination of marsh gas would leave a residue of pure carbon, and thus, as Bischof has suggested, vegetable matters may be converted into anthracite without the intervention of a high temperature.

The elimination of the whole of the oxygen in the form of carbonic acid would leave a compound with a large excess of hydrogen, of which it would be necessary to remove a portion in the form of water or marsh gas in order to reduce the residue to the composition of petroleum. We know of no combination