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naphtha from a neighbouring spring. Petroleum is of a dark colour, and thicker than common tar; in the carboniferous strata of Coalbrook dale, and in some parts of Asia, this substance rises from coalbeds in immense quantities. From a careful analysis of petroleum, and certain turpentine oils, it is clear that their principal component parts are identical; and it appears therefore evident that petroleum has originated from the coniferous trees, whose remains have contributed so largely to the formation of coal; and that the mineral oil is nothing more than the turpentine oil of the pines of former ages-not only the wood, but also large accumulations of the needle-like leaves of the pines may also have contributed to this process. We thus have the satisfaction of obtaining, after the lapse of thousands of years, information as to the more intimate composition of those ancient forests of the period of the great coal formation, whose comparison with the present vegetation of our globe is the subject of so much interest and investigation. The mineral oil may be ranked with amber, succinite, and other similar bodies which occur in the strata of the The occurrence of petroleum in springs earth. does not seem to depend on combustion, as has been supposed, but is simply the result of subterranean heat. According to the information we now possess, it is not necessary that strata should be at a very great depth beneath the surface to acquire a heat equal to the boiling point of water, or mineral