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clams, so that in this case the cycle from diatom to man is very short.

But in most cases it takes a little longer. The tiny relatives of crab and lobster, and the other diatom-eating animals, are eaten by other and larger animals: small fish, squid, etc. These become the prey of still larger swimming traps. After three or four or half-a-dozen such reincarnations, the diatoms at last reach our tables, in the form of codfish or halibut or flounder or mackerel or tuna. But whatever the disguise, the origin is the same.

All fish is diatoms.

*Science News Letter, March 18, 1933*

**PALEOBOTANY**

**Trees Still Petrifying In Yellowstone Park**

**T**REE STUMPS now undergoing the process of petrification are an interesting sight in the Upper Geyser Basin, in Yellowstone National Park.

On the north side of Old Faithful there are at least six or eight stumps in which the wood-fibers have been found to contain a large amount of silica. Evidently this silica is being deposited at intervals from the geyser water, according to Park Naturalist C. Max Bauer. The petrification of the stumps is a very slow process.

The Yellowstone already has an interesting display of fossil forests located over extensive areas in the northern part of the park. These, however, are the result of successive outbreaks of volcanic activity in the past. What happened in these cases apparently was that a standing forest was engulfed in great clouds of volcanic dust until the trees were completely buried. Water seeped through this dust and into the buried trees, carrying with it silica from the volcanic ash. The woody structure of the trees was dissolved and the silica deposited in its place. The trees thus became fossilized.

Long afterwards, when the volcanic activity had quieted and sufficient soil had accumulated on top of the buried trees, another forest grew, only to meet the same fate. This happened again and again.

Today, at Specimen Ridge in the northeast portion of the park, trained observers can distinguish in some places a succession of these forests, twelve in number, one above the other.

*Science News Letter, March 18, 1933*

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