

zoid. . . . In such wise the autotrophic zoid of highly differentiated anisokont habit may be visualised as passing on to the initiation of the series of the great marine group of the Phaeophyceae." Strange that an old Oxford teacher should have employed for his exposition a medium "complex beyond the possibilities of human computation."

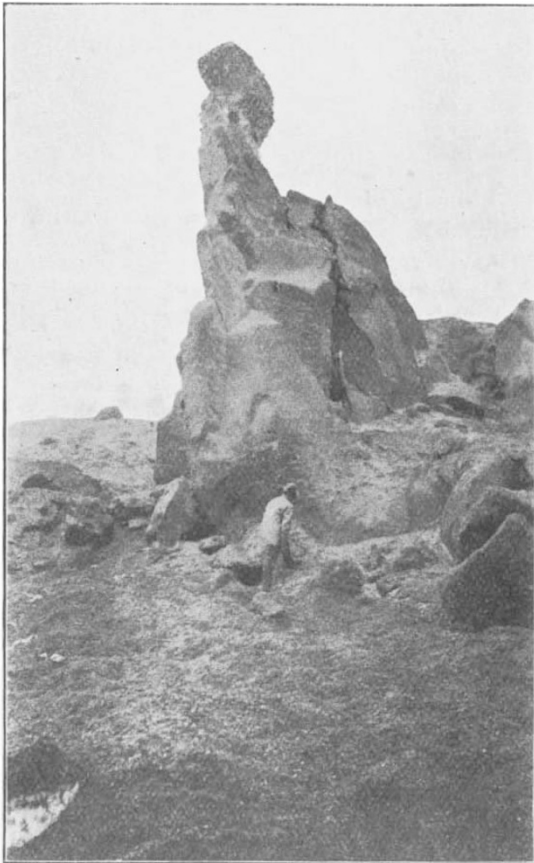
Yet if the reader can summon up courage to face the repellent language of this tract he will find suggestions of extraordinary interest. The superiority of the botanist over the zoologist is emphasised; even "a tree is in many respects

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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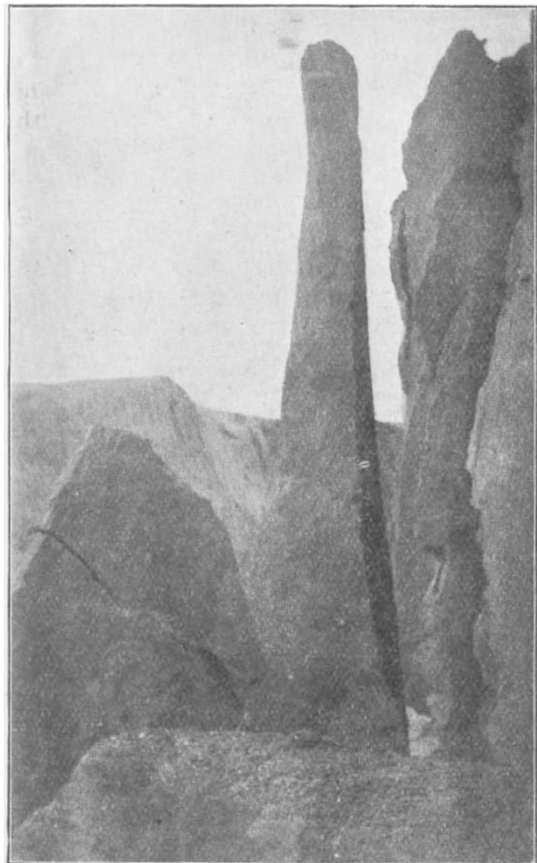
The Nature of the Katmai Volcanic Gases and Encrustations.

THE fumarole activity following and continuing after the great Katmai eruption of June, 1912, has provided south-western Alaska with the first among the natural wonders of the world. The volcanic gases



Photo]

[J. W. Shipley.



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[J. W. Shipley.

FIG. 1.—Fractured sections of the Great Mud Flow. Note the conglomerate nature of the fragments and the irregular cleavage planes. Sometimes, however, the cleavage is quite regular, as shown in Fig. 2.

more entitled to respectful admiration than a man," unless, we presume, he be a botanist.

Human Personality and its Survival of Bodily Death. By Frederic W. H. Myers. Edited and abridged by S. B. and L. H. M. Pp. xiii + 307. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1919.) Price 6s. 6d. net.

THE original two-volume work, published in 1903, is abridged by condensing the text and omitting the greater part of the appendices. The illustrative cases which are published form part of the text, and are nearly always quoted in full.

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force their way to the surface over an area of more than fifty square miles. This area is covered with volcanic ash and pumice, largely distributed by an enormous flow of mud following the explosion of the Novarupta volcano, but preceding the outburst of Katmai ten miles to the eastward. The relatively coarse ash and pumice from Novarupta were not ejected to any considerable distance, but, falling locally, quickly melted the snow on the mountains, and, with the rainfall accompanying the eruption, slid down into the adjacent valleys, forming a viscous mass which poured down the Bering Sea slope of the peninsular axis for a distance of more than fifteen miles.

As the mud drained away, unlike the more fluid water,