3. (Original)  A method for the thermal separation of distillates from feed-stock containing both distillates and non-distillates, which method comprises:

a) heating the hydrocarbon feed-stock in a·first modu1e at a non- cracking first=temperature selected to provide vaporization of distillates to be separated;

b) allowing the distillate vapor to collect into a second module maintained at a second temperature which is below the first temperature, such that the fraction of distillates which boil between the second temperature and the first temperature condense in the second module;

c) allowing the distillate vapor from the second module to move, sequentially, into a plurality of additional modules, each of which are maintained such that the temperature is below the temperature of the preceding module in order to allow for that fraction of distillates to condense into said module to form a condensate; and

d) collecting the condensate from the each module\* so as to provide condensates that are separate from one another and from the feed-stock;

wherein distillation in each module is optionally conducted in the presence of vacuum at 10°C and/or a sparging gas introduced into the feed-stock or condensate of one or more modules.