

It may be briefly mentioned here as highly probable that all of *these so-called "elements" are only different forms of combination of two different primary elements—matter and ether*; the matter-atoms are endowed with *attraction*, the ether-atoms with *repulsion*. The differences between our present "elements" probably consist merely in the matter-atoms being different in number and arrangement, or by their being separated in some different manner by the ether-atoms. *The group-relationship between the elements* makes this supposition appear very likely, even though our imperfect chemical knowledge has not yet been able to demonstrate this experimentally.

The chemical and physical differences existing between organisms and anorgana, consequently, do not lie in their material foundation; they do not arise from the different nature of the *elements* composing them, but from the different manner in which the latter are united by chemical *combination*. This different manner of combination gives rise to certain physical peculiarities, especially in density of substance, which at first sight seems to constitute a deep chasm between the two groups of bodies. Inorganic or inanmiate natural bodies, such as crystals and the amorphous rocks, are in a state of density which we call the firm or solid state, and which we oppose to the liquid state of water and to the gaseous state of air. It is familiar to every one that these three different degrees of density, or states of aggregation of anorgana, are by no means peculiar to the different elements, but are the results of a certain degree of temperature. Every inorganic solid body, by increase of temperature, can be reduced to the liquid or melted state, and, by further heat, to the gaseous or elastic state. In the