

## CHAPTER II

### THE ENVIRONMENT

#### I

#### ASTRONOMY

**A**N examination of the relationship between life and the environment, in which by means of the simplifying postulates previously developed life is arbitrarily taken as an invariant, should, if it is to be quite general, rest upon a physico-chemical description of the whole universe. We require to know the form and structure of stars and of interstellar space, of nebulae and of solar systems, and the conditions and changes which accompany such aggregations of matter. Evidently this requirement can be but imperfectly fulfilled, and yet one need not be too apologetic in venturing the attempt. In the end, to be sure, we shall found our argument upon the safe basis of terrestrial phenomena, but meantime it will be an advantage to consider conditions far and wide.