rences throughout the universe, and that they are the normal result of cosmic evolution, does not in any way modify the subsequent course of the inquiry, there appears to be no loss of logical security from its introduction. Meanwhile the evidence that the special phenomena under discussion are probably the nowise exceptional outcome of the operation of general laws, and not merely sporadic, cannot fail to lend weight to whatever conclusions may ultimately be reached.

Obviously it is in the physical and chemical attributes of these two compounds and their constituent elements that we find very many of the conditions which make life possible upon the earth. They are material, provided and mobilized automatically, out of which living things undoubtedly *can* be formed. Moreover if we limit our study to the physico-chemical properties of water and carbonic acid, and to the compounds of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, we shall greatly simplify our problem. It cannot be denied that this restriction, no less than the earlier decision to restrict the postulated characteristics of life to complexity, regulation, and metabolism, is sure to limit the inquiry, often perhaps in a very unwelcome manner. On the other hand, the gain in economy and security is once