

follows directly ; namely, that water possesses certain nearly unique qualifications which are largely responsible for making the earth habitable, or at least very favorable as a habitation for living organisms.

It need hardly be pointed out that this importance of the high heat capacity of water is a very well-known fact. Even in the early decades of the nineteenth century, when natural theology and argument from design were the subject of lively controversy, especially in England, such subjects were very familiar, and an excellent temperate discussion from the theologian's side will be found in Whewell's *Bridgewater Treatise*.<sup>1</sup> At that time, before a clear formulation of the concept of adaptation existed, it was of course impossible to disentangle such natural fitness from the results of the organic evolutionary process. In the more modern period since the publication of "The Origin of Species," the late Professor J. P. Cooke of Harvard has dwelt upon this and other properties of water and sought to show that, lying wholly apart from the new ideas, such phenomena remain

<sup>1</sup> Chapter IX of this work deals with "The Laws of Heat with Respect to Water." Although the ideas are somewhat vague, the importance of the capacity of water to absorb heat is clearly brought out.