

be cited as a good illustration of the nature of the case.¹

It is unnecessary to discuss the effects upon living organisms of the equable temperature of the ocean and of the moderation of climate, for obviously we are here confronted by a true instance of regulation of the environment.

The high heat capacity of water operates in still another manner to regulate temperature upon the land and at the same time to increase the mobility of the environment of marine organisms. For directly or indirectly it is involved in the formation and duration of ocean currents, especially the movement of water in the depths from the polar to the tropical seas, and it determines the amount of heat carried by such currents. A similar and even more important "function" is the direct promotion of winds, with the resulting distribution of aqueous vapor throughout the atmosphere, a primary factor in the dissemination of water by means of the rainfall. Here the essential thing is the existence of a vast warm reservoir in the tropics and of two similar cold reservoirs at the poles. Under

¹ A discussion of Zenker's work will be found in Hann's "Handbook of Climatology," translated by Ward, pp. 210-215.