

on their way down from the mountain tops to the ocean or by the marine flora and fauna.

Not less valuable to the community of living things than the dissolution of the rocks, is the disintegration and transport of solid material, largely dependent thereon, which among its many results includes the preliminary steps of soil formation. By these familiar and enduring geological means chemical substances are mobilized in the greatest variety of forms and conditions, and thus rendered available for the living organism. It is clearly evident from the chemist's long experience with solvents that no other fluid could permanently carry on this process with such acceptable regularity and efficiency. For no other chemically inert solvent can compare with water in the number of things which it can dissolve, nor in the amounts of them which it can hold in solution; and of course any chemically active solvent must sooner or later exhaust itself by its chemical action, when the cycle must cease. Here, then, is a fitness of water which is open to no doubt.

Let us turn for further proof to the organism itself, taking blood serum as a source of information. The composition of this sub-