

of adsorption in biology is not to be briefly presented, but it may be found in almost endless profusion in such works as those of Freundlich and Bechhold.¹

It must not be supposed that the phenomena of adsorption in biology are simple and exactly understood. What is certain is that they are universal, and that surface tension lies at the root of the matter. This is because all living things are colloidal, and I am inclined to think that most physiologists will admit that life without colloids is probably unthinkable, even in a world very differently constituted from our own. Colloidal structures are, in fact, the first and greatest factors in physical complexity of organization, and the principal force, unless it be in exceptional cases an electrical charge due to ions, which operates upon the colloidal structures is surface tension. This, then, is another striking fitness of water above all other things.

Such are the facts which I have been able to discover regarding the fitness of water for the organism. The following properties appear to be extraordinarily, often uniquely,

¹ Freundlich, "Kapillarchemie." Leipzig, 1909. Bechhold, "Die Kolloide in Biologie und Medizin." Dresden, 1911.