

tons for the whole earth.¹ In the ocean the amount of carbonic acid is about 0.1 gram per liter, or approximately 0.01 per cent by weight. Here, however, much the larger part is in chemical union with bases, chiefly in the form of bicarbonates.²

There can be no doubt that the physical properties of carbon dioxide are less important to the living organism than are those of water. But indeed the characteristics of water so largely determine the nature of the environ-

¹The composition of dry air is as follows:—

	PER CUBIC METER	
	Volume in Liters	Weight in Grams
Nitrogen	784	983
Oxygen	209.4	299
Argon	6.3	10.4
Carbon dioxide	0.3	0.6
	PER KILOGRAM	
	Weight in Grams	Volume in Liters
Nitrogen	759.5	605.5
Oxygen	231	162
Argon	9	5.25
Carbon dioxide	0.5	0.25

² See below in the discussion of the alkalinity of the ocean.