

are dissolved about 0.019 gram of silver and about 0.006 gram of gold, amounts which correspond to 0.0000019 per cent and 0.0000006 per cent, respectively.

It has been calculated that 166,000,000 years have been required for the streams to carry into the sea the sodium chloride which is now present. The calcium carbonate of the rivers would however suffice to supply the present amount of that substance in 500,000 years. Accordingly, the present store of the latter substance represents but a very small fraction of what has passed through the ocean, and as a result of the intervention of life has finally been deposited as sedimentary limestone. Since the formation of the ocean, if present conditions correspond with the past, water must have carried to the dwellers of

ently of one another. Thus the composition of sea water is stated as follows:—

	RELATIVE AMOUNT
Sodium chloride, NaCl	77.758
Magnesium chloride, MgCl ₂	10.878
Magnesium sulphate, MgSO ₄	4.737
Calcium sulphate, CaSO ₄	3.600
Potassium sulphate, K ₂ SO ₄	2.465
Calcium carbonate, CaCO ₃	0.345
Magnesium bromide, MgBr ₂	0.217