

vidual chemical substance, that is to say abstractly, but also naturally, as automatic processes of cosmic and geological evolution have fashioned it into the principal constituent of the face of the globe. Primarily, at any rate, the outcome of such processes is dependent upon the inherent properties of water and upon the quantity of it which is present on the surface of the earth, and the subject is too important to be passed completely by.

Perhaps the first desideratum in an environment as a source of food is mobility. Any organism which, like the lilies of the field, need not toil for its nourishment, is in most favorable conditions, and such conditions are the principal cause of the enormous wealth of vegetation upon the earth. Now the ocean, apart from the flora and fauna which inhabit it, is perfectly homogeneous; hence its mobility brings to an organism all that it has to offer, and even sweeps along organic nourishment as well. In the ocean not only plants but many animals may remain motionless and, like the oyster, await the food that will surely be borne to them; or they may float freely, relying on the mixing of the water to bring them into contact with their food.

After mobility, richness and variety of