

stage of the infinitely varied process of organic evolution. As a result we find here and there in the marine flora and fauna almost every element which the sea affords concentrated and put to use.

After what has gone before it will not be necessary further to discuss the second great qualification of an environment — stability of conditions in the ocean. The principal physical conditions and chemical compounds therein are constant; that is the whole case. But it is a case which cannot be bettered. Certainly nowhere else where life is possible, probably in no other place in the universe except another ocean, are so many conditions so stable and so enduring.

The regulatory devices of our modern laboratories have not yet succeeded in rivaling the ocean. Singly, certain conditions, for example, temperature, alkalinity, and concentration, may be more accurately regulated by man, though on a small scale only; but the regulation of all such properties together is not yet possible. The only known improvement upon the ocean is the body of a higher warm-blooded animal. Here, however, the processes of organic evolution have begun with the ocean, and in several respects merely perfected existing arrangements.