

occur, and as a rule he had little to do with physiological or biological chemistry. Not that he was now ever disposed to distinguish between substances which happened to occur in living organisms and others; for at length he had completely accepted the view that, apart possibly from a few complicated substances like the proteins, such distinctions are thoroughly irrational. But the nature of the subject and the historical accidents of its development directed his attention in the main elsewhere.

Nevertheless, the distinction between organic chemistry as the science of all the compounds of carbon, and inorganic chemistry as the science of all other chemical compounds whatever has persisted, and not without sound reasons. In the course of the wonderful development of organic chemistry, which must ever be counted as one of the greatest achievements of the nineteenth century, enormous numbers of new chemical substances were discovered. In 1883 the number of carbon compounds had reached 20,000, in 1899, 74,000, and in 1902 it exceeded 100,000.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See M. M. Richter, "Lexikon der Kohlenstoffverbindungen," Hamburg and Leipzig, 1900, continued in supplementary volumes. This work catalogues all the compounds of carbon as they come to light.