that the anatomical characteristics of one class of animals distinguish such a class from other classes of animals. In short, the carbon compounds are not unique merely because they are numerous; they are uniquely numerous because they are compounds of carbon with hydrogen, oxygen, and in some cases certain other elements. They possess, moreover, other less obvious class properties as well, though of these, it must be admitted, chemistry is even yet far from a clear understanding. But unquestionably that is due to the incompleteness of the science, for the peculiar methods of organic chemistry are a sufficient guarantee of the existence of such class peculiarities.[1]

In our present investigation a study of the possibilities of chemical union between the elements carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen is of great importance, and accordingly we must now examine some of the results of synthetic organic chemistry.

[1] See the introductory chapter to Meyer and Jacobson's "Lehrbuch der Organischen Chemie," Leipzig, 1907.