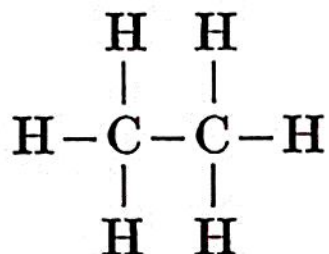


Uniting two carbon atoms by a single valence, the formula



representing the compound ethane is obtained; but if the process be extended, great complexity speedily ensues. For example, the hexanes, compounds formed upon this plan containing six carbon atoms, all of one empirical formula, number five. Their constitutions are represented by the accompanying structures, every one of which corresponds to a known substance:—

