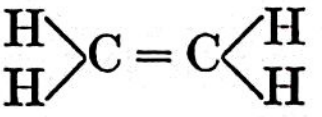
has ever failed who has set out with skill, a good plan, and suitable starting materials, to prepare such a body.

The number and variety of hydrocarbons is further enormously extended by the possibility of double and treble unions between pairs of carbon atoms, as in ethylene,



and acetylene,

$$H - C \equiv C - H$$

Further, more than one double or treble bond, or single, double, and treble bonds in combination, may occur, as in the well-known substances $CH_3 - CH = CH_2$, $CH_3 - C \equiv CH$, $CH_2 = C = CH_2$, etc.

Finally, the carbon atoms possess the property of uniting to form ring compounds in great variety, *e.g.*