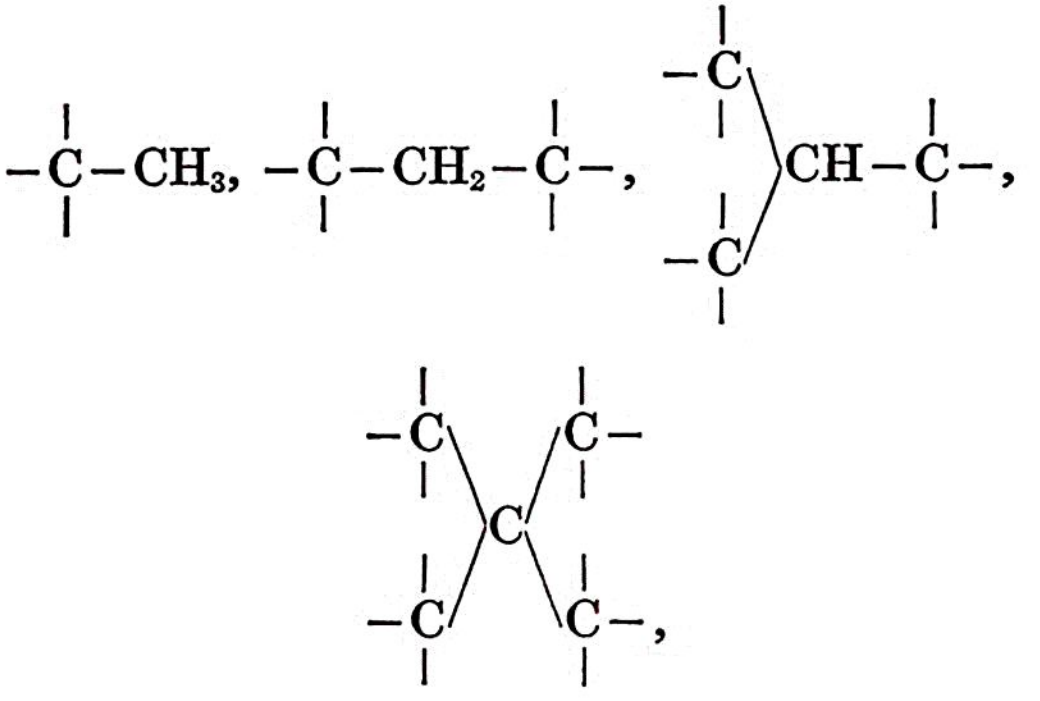
In the latter case the introduction of methyl groups in place of hydrogen produces no appreciable change in the general characteristics of the substances; in the former, the successive introduction of hydroxyl groups forms substances belonging to three different classes of compounds,—alcohols, aldehydes, and acids, which have nothing in common. In short, variation in the number and arrangement of such groups as occur in the paraffine hydrocarbon,



is without manifest effect upon the more important properties of the molecule, but variation in the number and arrangement of any other groups produces complete change in its characteristic properties.