

any one of a group of simultaneous reactions that may serve its needs, and make that one predominant. In short, the fitness is reciprocal; the unique chemical adaptability of the process and the unique chemical powers of the living organism interlock.

Such, in brief, are the superlative advantages which the properties of the compounds of the three elements contribute to the organic mechanism. They include number of substances, variety of substances, variety of properties, variety of reactions, facility of reactions (instability), and the remarkable relationship between carbon dioxide and water and the carbohydrates. And they insure that extreme variety of chemical relationship which especially fits organic substances, once created, to be, throughout the various forms of life, the source of still other bodies, and the source of energy, by means of far-reaching chemical changes rapidly accomplished.

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#### HYDROLYSIS

In the course of digestion the principal foodstuffs, carbohydrates, fats, and proteins, undergo a series of changes which are substantially the same for all. Such processes are known as hydrolytic cleavage, or more loosely