

ditions in the environment; number, variety, complexity, adaptability, availability, activity, and richness in energy of the substances which take part in the metabolic processes and in the chemical and physical formation of the organism; constancy of physico-chemical conditions, such as temperature, alkalinity, colloidal disperseness, etc., within the organism; the efficiency of many physiological processes; the availability of electrical forces, etc.

In short, by many independent and united actions the above catalogued natural characteristics of the environment promote and favor complexity, regulation, and metabolism, the three fundamental characteristics of life upon which all our discussion has been based.

II

THE EXHAUSTIVENESS OF THE TREATMENT

One manner of judging the completeness with which different types of phenomena and properties, different elements and compounds, have been considered in the descriptive chapters preceding is to glance at the several departments of physical science, — chemistry, mechanics, heat, sound, light, magnetism, electricity, and physical chemistry.