the oxide of silicon, is the most inert and immobile of rocks; the oxide of boron is only less available as a movable constituent of the environment; and there is no other stable compound of either element which can be compared with carbonic acid for its mobility. It must be remembered that this property is the result of two independent characteristics of the latter substance, its gaseous nature, and the precise degree of its solubility in water. Finally, the regulation of the reaction of aqueous solutions by means of carbonic acid has to be taken into account.

Hence it may be concluded that hydrogen, oxygen, and carbon, water and carbonic acid, are not to be rivaled in their own qualities, even as these cannot be balanced by others which they do not possess.

On the whole, then, we may believe that the physico-chemical characteristics of material systems and material processes have been comprehensively examined in the course of the present study. Accordingly, we may finally conclude that the fitness of water, carbonic acid, and the three elements make up a unique ensemble of fitness for the organic mechanism. The search, however incomplete, has certainly not overlooked properties so important and so numerous, or compounds and elements so