

unique, as those which have been considered and set forth.

With the assurance that, in such measure as the present state of science permits, our study has been indeed exhaustive, a final argument arises. So far as we can see, all the properties of water, carbonic acid, and the three elements are fit, according to our definition of fitness. There is nothing about these substances that is really and seriously inferior to the same thing in any other substance; and in all the subjects which we have reviewed not a single disability of the primary constituents of the environment has come to light.

III

SUMMARY

For the convenience of my readers the argument which has been developed in the course of the preceding pages is here re-stated in outline.

- I. Fitness is a mutual or reciprocal relationship between the organism and the environment.
- II. Life is a mechanism (from the point of view of physical science). Accordingly it must be —