

be of biological importance or which appear to be related to complexity, regulation, and metabolism.

IX. There are no other compounds which share more than a small part of the qualities of fitness of water and carbonic acid; no other elements which share those of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen.

X. None of the characteristics of these substances is known to be unfit, or seriously inferior to the same characteristic in any other substance.

XI. Therefore the fitness of the environment is both real and unique.

In drawing this final conclusion I mean to assert the following propositions:—

I. The fitness of the environment is one part of a reciprocal relationship of which the fitness of the organism is the other. This relationship is completely and perfectly reciprocal;<sup>1</sup> the one fitness is not less important

<sup>1</sup> This is not to be understood as an assertion that the relationship is symmetrical. The fact is that each organism fits its particular environment, while the environment in its most general and universal characteristics fits the most general and universal characteristics of the organic mechanism.