

the dielectric constant, and ionizing power. Further, it is of course most probable that numerous other properties are necessarily associated with these; and finally it is not surprising that elements of low atomic weight, which become concentrated in the atmosphere on account of the small specific gravity of their gases, should possess unusual properties, like high specific heat, or if one property leads to another, many unusual properties. Be that as it may, chemical science is still a very long way from accounting for the simultaneous occurrence of the various characteristics of water, especially if we include such things as heat of formation, solvent power, the process of hydrolytic cleavage, the degree of solubility of carbon dioxide, the anomalous expansion on cooling near the freezing point, etc.

There is, in fact, exceedingly little ground for hope that any single explanation of these coincidences can arise from current hypotheses and laws. But if to the coincidence of the unique properties of water we add that of the chemical properties of the three elements, a problem results under which the science of to-day must surely break down. If these taken as a whole are ever to be understood, it will be in the future, when research has pene-