

no one can doubt that upon the properties of matter as determined by the periodic system, and upon the relative amounts of the different elements, the actual process of cosmic evolution from nebula to solar system is dependent.¹

Hence, in accordance with the general method of science, we must assume that the origin of environmental fitness lies at least as far back as the phenomena of the periodic system, at least as far back as the evolution of the elements, if they were ever evolved. We simply cannot doubt that the origin of a body like the earth depends exclusively upon chance plus the properties of the elements, their relative amounts, the indestructible forces of nature, and the other known factors of mechanism. The perfect induction of physical science, based upon each and all of its countless successes in every department of physics and chemistry, conclusively proves that the whole process of cosmic evolution from its earliest conceivable state to the present is pure mechanism.²

¹ The same considerations apply to any other scientific hypothesis of the genesis of the solar system.

² Not only is this proved by all experience of physical science, it has also ever been the necessary working hypothesis of physicists and chemists.