

lation of neutrality (the concentration of ionized hydrogen and hydroxyl at the neutral point).

One does not like to accept a fact of such far-reaching importance as mere chance, and yet no other explanation was at hand. For, after the briefest consideration, it was obvious that here, at least, natural selection could not be involved. But it was also certain that this is no unique instance of a property of a simple substance automatically serving a very useful purpose in the processes of life. Like every one who has received a chemical training, I was vaguely conscious of numerous other similar cases ; like every one who has any acquaintance with the general properties of matter, I knew that the remarkable thermal properties of water are of great importance to living organisms. However, in spite of the fact that I had been brought face to face with a definite problem whose solution now appears to be perfectly patent, so great is the natural inertia of the mind, and so firmly established was the belief that natural selection is, on the whole, quite adequate to account for biological fitness, that for a number of years I made no further progress.

Then, finally, after a long period of uncertainty, came the realization of the reciprocal