It is quite impossible briefly to indicate, still less to give an adequate idea of the bewildering diversity and complexity of the known hydrocarbons. They exist by the hundreds, and there are certainly countless thousands of possible stable bodies made up of carbon and hydrogen alone.

 \boldsymbol{C}

COMPOUNDS OF CARBON, HYDROGEN, AND OXYGEN

With the addition of oxygen, the variety and number of known and of possible substances is still further multiplied. Oxygen may enter into the following types of union with carbon and hydrogen in organic compounds:—

$$\equiv$$
C-O-H, \equiv C-O-C \equiv , =C=0.

Alone or in combination, these groups yield a great variety of important classes of compounds. Representing a group or radical consisting of carbon and hydrogen alone by