

acid, oxalic acid, acetone, ether, lactic acid, sugar, cotton, glycerine, olive oil, camphor, tannin, ophiotoxin (the chief poisonous constituent of cobra venom), starch, vanilline (the flavoring constituent of the vanilla bean), oil of wintergreen, salol, benzoic acid, digitaline.

Here is a variety that baffles description; but description is hardly necessary, for the facts explain themselves. In short, the compounds of the three elements which compose water and carbon dioxide exist in enormous numbers and in unparalleled diversity of chemical and physical characteristics. They include substances of the greatest stability, and others of exceeding instability; liquids, solids, and gases; chemically active and chemically inert bodies; acids and neutral substances; substances which are readily oxidized and others which are oxidized only with great difficulty. In a very large proportion of cases these compounds are capable of entering into reactions with one another. They are, moreover, capable of forming still more complex substances, in still greater variety by entering into union with other elements, notably with nitrogen and sulphur.