

ages to hatch, so to speak, and the product to be slain ; and, although some each time may have reproduced germs before slaughter—eggs capable of standing the warmth—yet a succession of such warmings would ultimately be fatal to all, and that without necessarily breaking up the protoplasmic complex aggregates on the existence of which the whole vital potentiality depends.

So far, however, all effort at spontaneous generation has been a failure ; possibly because some essential ingredient or condition was omitted, possibly because great lapse of time was necessary. But suppose it was successful ; what then ? We should then be reproducing in the laboratory a process that must at some past age have occurred on the earth ; for at one time the earth was certainly hot and molten and inorganic, whereas now it swarms with life.

Does that show that the earth generated the life ? By no means ; no more than it need necessarily have generated all the gases