

suited to a mechanism which must be complex, durable, and dependent upon a constant metabolism: heat capacity, heat conductivity, expansion on cooling near the freezing point, density of ice, heat of fusion, heat of vaporization, vapor tension, freezing point, solvent power, dielectric constant and ionizing power, and surface tension.<sup>1</sup>

In no case do the advantages which these properties confer seem to be trivial; commonly they are of the greatest moment; and I cannot doubt, even after allowances have been made for the probability of occasional fallacies in the development of an argument which, though simple, is beset with many pitfalls, that they are decisive. Water, of its very nature, as it occurs automatically in the process of cosmic evolution, is fit, with a fitness no less marvelous and varied than that fitness of the organism which has been won by the process of adaptation in the course of organic evolution.

If doubts remain, let a search be made for

<sup>1</sup> Contrasting this statement with that of Whewell in his *Bridgewater Treatise*, it is evident that while the progress of science has provided much novel information, and eliminated many false views, the present situation differs from the earlier one only in the better definition of the issue, and in our modern freedom from metaphysical and theological associations.