Thus, under a force acting perpendicularly on their surface, as under repeated blows of the hammer, or compression by rollers, many of them are capable of being expanded to a greater or less extent; some of them to such an extent as to become thinner than the thinnest paper; which property in its various degrees is expressed by the term *malleability:* others, though not possessing any great degree of malleability, may be drawn out into a wire, sometimes so fine as scarcely to be visible by the naked eye; which property is expressed by the term *ductility*. All of them are capable of being expanded or contracted in every direction by an increase or decrease of their temperature; the degree of this *expansibility*, as of its opposite effect, depending on the degree of the temperature. And lastly, in connexion with certain points of temperature, all the metals are capable of existing either in a solid or in a liquid state: and their property of passing from a solid to a liquid state, in consequence of the agency of heat, is called their *fusibility*.

Into the detail of the different degrees in which these properties are possessed by different metals, it belongs to the chemist to enter. What we have at present to consider is, the advantage accruing to society from these properties themselves, and from their existence in that particular degree in which they actually do ex-