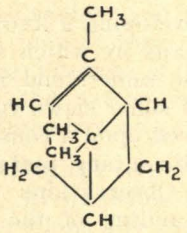
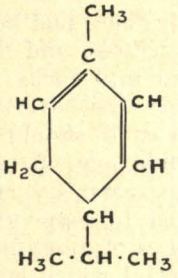
CHEMICAL FORMULÆ.

To those unacquainted with organic chemistry, it might appear strange that so many substances of diverse properties should possess identical chemical formulæ. Examples are $C_{10}H_{16}$, $C_{10}H_{16}O$, $C_{10}H_{18}O$, which appear in the preceding article.

These formulæ represent in the simplest possible manner the number of individual atoms of carbon and hydrogen, or carbon, hydrogen and oxygen constituting the molecule of substances, as for example:



α-Pinene



α-Phellandrene

The variable properties of substances possessing similar chemical formulæ is due to the internal arrangement or chemical architecture of the individual atoms or groups of atoms which constitute the substance. It is the determination of the arrangement of the atoms or the variation in chemical architecture of a substance that makes organic chemistry such a fascinating study.

A.R.P.

THE AGE OF THE EARTH.

By G. D. Osborne, D.Sc.

It would be difficult to think of an aspect of the development and history of the earth more fascinating than that of its age. Throughout the later history of man there have always been inquirers who have attempted to wrest from the earth the secret of her age. Many of