ment may be recognized; and even now there is much uncertainty as to the nature of some of the generally accepted elements, in particular some of those derived from the rare earths; it is quite likely that further investigation may remove several of them from the list.

Many of the elements exist in more than one "form" or "allotropic modification." Yellow phosphorus, for instance, on standing in the sunlight turns red, and loses much of its inflammability; as this change occurs without addition of any foreign substance, as the red phosphorus can be reconverted into yellow by heating, and as both give the same products when acted on by oxygen, chlorine, etc., these two very different substances are often spoken of as "the same thing." Even from a strictly chemical point of view, however, this curious misuse of the English language is indefensible; the products of oxidation are the same, but the conditions under which they arise are very different; and now that more attention is being paid to the conditions under which reactions occur, it is better to let the old phrase drop.