ORGANIC CHEMISTRY.

INTRODUCTORY.

Organic chemistry is the science of the compounds of carbon.

Only a small number of other elements are met with in natural organic substances; they are hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen, sometimes also, sulphur, phosphorus, and very rarely certain other elements.

Chemists have succeeded in incorporating most of the elemental substances in organic bodies, yet the larger number even of the artificial compounds include only the four elements first named.

Paraffine is found by analysis to contain only carbon and hydrogen, and is therefore called a *hydrogencarbide*. The hydrocarbides are compounds so stable and fundamental that some chemists, as Schorlemmer for instance, have even defined organic chemistry as "the chemistry of hydrocarbons and their derivatives."

From alcohol, or sugar, we may obtain carbon and water. These bodies therefore are composed of three elements: carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, and are called *carbohydrates*; though by some chemists, this term is restricted to those compounds containing car-