

whether radio-active processes are or have been, considerable sources of solar energy.

It seems to me quite probable that in the earlier stages of the sun's and earth's history the greater internal heat of the latter and possibly different atmospheric conditions may have markedly accelerated the geological processes, while at the same time the sun may not have been radiating at so rapid a rate. Its greater diameter in early ages would also, probably, affect matters favorably so far as reconciling the two views are concerned. It is possible that by such means the life of the sun could perhaps be extended to fit the geological estimates or the latter may by later researches be diminished. However this may be, the contraction theory seems the only one in sight for accounting for the maintenance of the solar radiation.

I have by no means been able, in this paper, to cover even a small fraction of the ground required to adequately treat this subject, but I hope sufficient has been said to give you some idea of the most recent views on the constitution of our luminary and to show you that we are, probably, only on the threshold of what we may hope to learn by improved methods about this, to us, most important star of the universe.