

2 — THE MOON

On looking at the moon through a telescope for the first time, some surprise may be experienced when one sees how clear and hard every detail seems to be quite free from mist of any kind. The reason is that there is no air or only a very small amount of it on the moon; and it is now certain that there is no water on the moon though the great dark spaces on it were, when first looked at through the telescope, taken for seas, and names were given to them with that idea in mind, which they have still kept, as for example, the Mare Tranquilatis, Mare Imbrium and so on.

Possibly these great dark spaces are full of something which was at one time liquid and which has been made solid by the cold. Under these conditions it does not seem probable that any of the living forms present on the Earth have any existence on the Moon.

There is a number of mountains on the Moon as high as those on the Earth, though the Moon is smaller in size. There are great round rings seen on its surface, through the telescope, like those rings formed by the edges of fire-mountains on the earth. But if ever there were fires in these great holes, they have been cold for a very long time.

Everything on the Moon, when seen through the telescope, gives the onlooker the feeling that complete death has come upon it, if it ever had anything living on it.