

THE DOUBLE CONE OF LIFE

A Reconstruction Based on N. W. Pirie's Ideas on the Origin of Life

S. N. BALASUBRAHMANYAM*

In a report published in Nature on the 1957 Moscow Symposium on the Origins of Life N. W. Pirie (1907-1997) had included an "allegory of the two cones" to illustrate a generalized view how 'life's reactions' became increasingly efficient leading, after a time, to immense biological diversity but with unified chemistry. On re-reading his writings it occurs to one that the "double cone" allegory could be used to project the idea that 'life', wherever found, would be similar to what is seen on our little sphere.
