



FIGURE 4.11. Example of an autocatalytic network involving DNA replication. Prior to the origin of DNA polymerase enzymes, DNA molecules could have served as scaffolds for the assembly of their complementary molecules from a mix of oligonucleotides present in a sample. Here the molecule made up of six Gs serves as a template to bring together two molecules of CCC. If these are ligated together they can then serve as the template to assemble the original GGGGGG molecule.

4.11, redrawn from Lee D.H. et al., *Curr. Opin. Chem. Biol.* **1**: 491–496, © 1997 Elsevier