

simple organism whose only members are a few small hooklets, is accidentally discovered upon a blade of grass or in a drop of water from a ditch, a cesspool, or stream. Has such a defenceless little creature any relation with the formidable tapeworm that devours the sustenance of the unfortunate victim whose intestines it infests? It was the crowning triumph of German assiduity and skill to establish the fact. In the interior of the tissues and upon the free mucous surfaces of the human and other organisms, secondary organisms of a low grade of development are found, apparently formed in the locality that they inhabit. Whence do they come, and how do they originate? The ancients explained them as freaks of nature, creatures of equivocal or spontaneous generation, *i. e.*, simple results of the concurrent action of the forces at work in the place where they were developed, upon matter collected there. And even since the new era in embryology inaugurated by Redi and Vallisneri there have been, and still are physiologists who maintain the *generatio equivoca* of these beings. Thus we quite recently have Beauchier and Viguiet gravely declaring that, "in the predisposition to entozoa the thick mucus of the intestine comes under our consideration, in the first place, as being acid itself it cannot purify the blood from acids. From a portion of the mucus the worms are produced with the assistance of asthenia and adynamia by the *generatio equivoca*. The worms produced are as the analysis shews, still more acid than the mucus from which they are produced. Emetics, drastic purgatives, mercury, antimony and arsenic certainly kill the worms, but weaken the constitution, and thus actually rouse the *generatio equivoca* into activity, and cause the formation of worms," &c., &c. Of such physiologists we must say *scientia non docet*. The zealous researches now prosecuted everywhere in the embryology of the lower animals and especially the entozoa, have, however, routed the partizans of the *generatio equivoca* from their last field of contest, and conclusively established the universal correctness of the doctrine *omne vivum ex ovo*.

The metamorphoses and habits of many of these creatures surpass in strangeness those exhibited by inhabitants of the outer world. Although of simple structure and no particular beauty of form to the eye, the microscope invests them with the fairest proportions and a complexity of structure often surpassing that of higher animals. Active investigations are being conducted among these interesting beings, and new species are continually added to those already known,