however powerful can pierce the outer envelope of their digestive passages and permit a view of the digestive process as it actually occurs. In impenetrable darkness is that great problem worked out continually, and glimpses of it only, are caught by the experimentalist, who establishing fistulæ at various places in the course of the intestine, withdraws at will the materials in the neighborhood, for purposes of examination.

The ovaries and testes form ovules and zoosperms, the precious depositories of the vital principle for perpetuation of species. The highest interest is therefore attached to them. But the action of these organs can only be judged of by their effect, withdrawn from the body from time to time. To trace the successive stages of the formation of ovules and zoosperms *in situ*, is impossible.

But in the entozoa, and the simple animals that dwell in the depths of the seas, provision is made for those examinations which in the higher animals are impossible.

These creatures, passing their lives away from the light, are quite diaphanous. Their simple cellular structure also favors examination. Placed in suitable media, in the living state, all the details of their structure and functions can be examined from the beginning to the close of their existence. They, as it were, invite science to the study of life under sufficiently simple forms for comprehension. Each atom of food may be traced through all the changes that it undergoes. Thus, in the interior of man's own organism, in that very digestive passage whose functions are such a mystery, a structure is formed which will yet serve to explain the very function which produced it. At the culminating point of animal development the simplest living forms appear, and extremes meeting on a common ground, reveal a general law: the identity of digestion throughout the animal scale. Such nematode entozoa as the ascaris mystan (parasite to the cat,) possessing a genital system exactly fitted for the purpose, have served to reveal the entire process of formation in ovules and zoosperms, the impregnation of the former by the latter, and their subsequent history. Placed beneath the microscope they assume a magnitude suitable for examination. It may further be remarked in this place that many of these creatures so slightly disturb the health of the animals they inhabit, and are so constantly present, that the experimentalist soon ceases to regard them as morbid phenomena.

Are these creatures then unworthy of scientific enquiry? Let the