

And as cells constitute the elements out of which the vegetable structures are worked, and by which, as subsequently proved, their nutrition, secretion, and other vital functions are carried on; so by extending the inquiry it was found, that the like cells in animals similarly elaborate their various tissues and accomplish the living chemistry going on within them.

What is true of infinitesimal animalecules, is true of the infinitesimal cells; and, indeed, of the infinitesimal vital granules out of which the cells themselves are wonderfully formed. Among the Infusoria, Cuvier names the homogenia, describing them as without viscera or other complication, and frequently destitute of even the appearance of a mouth. Erenburg, it is true, has objected that they have a mouth, and the greater part of them a digestive cavity complicated with many cecal pouches or stomachs; and he has accordingly proposed to name the order polygastrica. But, it is said, that the appearance from which the existence of stomachs has been deduced, arises from the globular particles floating and seen in their transparent bodies; that when touched with liquor potassæ, they swell and burst, discharging their globules, which had been really floating in the interior; and that the latter, touched with the same liquor, also swell and burst, and discharge the granules they contain. These seeming stomachs would, therefore, appear to be cells, through which is effected the needful assimilation, and which act like those of chyle and blood in the higher animals. Hence the homogenia present the lowest specimens of animal existence in the form of a *cell*, maintaining its cell life, its nutrition and multiplication.

Upon the corresponding confines of the vegetable kingdom, we meet with cell life and existence in the same simplicity and the same integrity. The red snow of the northern regions, derives its colour from the *protococcus nivalis*. Every crimson vesicle is an independent plant,