

perpetuate the name given to the animal by its discoverer. I therefore suggest that the name of *Amœba proteus* should be employed for the common large Amœba, recognizable as the Proteus of Röscl and the *Amœba princeps* of Ehrenberg; otherwise, according to the strict rules of scientific nomenclature, it should be *Amœba chaos*.

Amœba proteus (pls. I, II) is one of the largest forms of the genus, and is the one which is perhaps the most familiar to those who are accustomed to the examination of the microscopic life abounding in fresh waters. It is commonly found in the superficial ooze of clear and comparatively quiet waters, such as ponds, lakes, and ditches. It also occurs among Duck-meat and on the under surface of leaves of aquatic plants floating on the surface of water. In some instances, in certain localities, it may be found in profusion; but frequently in similar places, or even at other seasons in the same place, I have failed to obtain it after the most diligent search. Specimens often vary, especially in different localities, to such a degree that it is difficult to decide whether to regard them as really pertaining to this or some other described species.

The habitual appearance of characteristic forms as they have come within my notice may be described as follows:

The Amœba, if observed immediately after having been transferred from the material in which it lived to the object-glass of the microscope, appears as a globular or ovoidal, granular ball, translucent and of a blackish hue by transmitted light, or faintly yellowish white by reflected light. Often, however, from the first moment of observation, the animal appears of irregular shape, with projected pseudopods already in movement, apparently as if it had been little affected by disturbance.

The globular or ovoidal quiescent Amœba after a little while puts forth from every part of the body a multitude of clear, rounded extensions of the ectosarc, which give one the impression that the creature had suddenly exuded, or, if I may use the term, sweated, numerous drops of liquid. These quickly elongate, and assume the form of digitate pseudopods, in which condition the animal may present the appearance seen in fig. 1, pl. I. A number of the pseudopods continue to elongate and become thicker, not only from an extension of the ectosarc, but by the attendant influx of the endosarc. The greater number of the pseudopods originally seen are