

In life, as in death, decompositions are continually going on. These decompositions are in kind not different, only during life the products of decomposition are removed and after death they remain in the body and thus poison the individual cells—that is, so alter them that their conditions no longer fulfil the requirements of life.

Scientific authorities everywhere are unanimous on this point: *Omnia vivum ex vivo* (all life comes from life), or, as some put it, *Omne vivum ex ovum* (all life comes from an egg), which is only another way of expressing it, as some animals are viviparous and others oviparous.

The germ, in both animal and plant life, is itself simply a detached portion of the substance of a pre-existing living body. Life, therefore, can be produced from a living ancestor only. And the individual as it develops from the egg cell epitomizes the history of the ancestral forms of its species.

Scientifically it seems impossible man can come from such an extremely minute and apparently insignificant speck as the germ constituting all there is in his beginning. We sometimes wonder at the smallness of the egg of the little humming-bird; but even such a shell full of embryonic germs of human beings would be enough to people a city. Think of it! Man, the lord of creation, yet in his beginning such a mere speck that it takes the most cultured eye to discover it and the best microscope to examine! No wonder science stands appalled and scientists sit by as pigmies. We must remember, too, that infinitesimal as is the human egg, it is *not* the germ; this is merely the mass, a comparatively crude mass. The germ within, as with other eggs, is very much smaller. We speak of the egg as a mere speck. What name shall we use to designate the smallness of this germ? Yet, though so small, it is a complete, living, active, complex organization, a cluster of inspired molecules, wonderfully tenacious, and most mysteriously at work from the first of its impregnated life. Molecule after molecule moves toward the surface of this minute cluster, arranging themselves into three distinct tiers like trained soldiers. The potentiality that resides in this human ameba, that is, the ovum already vivified, lays the foundations of the three embryonal sheets so called, the epiblast, the hypoblast and the mesoblast, the enfoldings of which give us the entire system of primal parts. Every time that you have a reproduction of tissue it has to go through this same process: First, indiscriminate chaos; then completely digested food or peptones; then protoplasmic mass; then the embryonal corpuscles out of which all the tissues arise, as exemplified by all reproduction of structure where there is fracture of the tissues. If they are favorably situated they simply repeat the embryonal condition and series of changes, so that they are indistinguishable from the original material.