

divided without inflicting any injury, or even inconvenience, upon its constituent members. But, when we ascend to the next order of beings, we find a new condition of things. These also consist of aggregations of single cells, yet with a notable difference, for all of them have taken up special duties, having reference not to their individual welfare alone, but also, and in a still greater degree, to that of the community to which they belong. In virtue of this association the whole enjoys special advantages, its life becomes more complex and of a higher order.

Upon such gathering together of cells, under more and more specialized conditions, all the wonderful series of the vegetable and animal kingdoms is founded, and it is carried forward until it finds its highest visible expression in man. Treating him as an aggregation of protoplasmic cells, similar to those observed in all other forms of life, but in him undergoing a degree of specialization elsewhere unequalled, let us endeavor to discern somewhat of the character of such an organic association.

Examining his composition we find that millions of cells, having encrusted themselves with a coating of lime, unite to form the bones which give rigidity to his frame and enable his muscles to act. These muscles also consist of millions of cells which have developed elastic envelopes capable of contraction and expansion, and therefore by their concerted action of imparting motion to the several portions of the body. With these are associated other millions of cells that, radiating from the brain stretch in long lines throughout the body, forming an intelligence corps which receives and transmits impulses. Other millions of various kinds, each fitted and trained to perform a special duty, are entrusted with the task of providing nourishment for the whole body; others transport such food throughout the entire system so that the needs of each individual shall be supplied; others play the part of soldiers and sentinels holding themselves ever ready to pounce upon and devour any intruding micro-organism. The number of such cells defies computation, yet each may be fairly conceived of as a distinct individual and each subordinate group as possessing a measure of independence. Thus the hair has been known to grow for months, if not years, after the individual had been dead and buried, and there is reason to believe that if the requisite nourishment could be supplied them, the cells in the various organs could be induced to continue their action, even if disconnected from the rest of the body. But the most wonderful fact remains still to be told. This extraordinary common-wealth, embracing as it does such an enormous number of constituent lives is revealed to us as a self conscious person. What the nature of the power or principle is that so dominates and controls the forces of the body as to produce the existing harmony, we cannot discern any more than we can comprehend the nature of the power or principle which dominates and controls the Universe, but this at least is clear *that the existence of the man as an organic unit depends upon the fact that, of the cells which form his body, no one any longer lives for himself alone—can indeed have no separate existence—but is subject to a control which unhesitatingly disposes of his life and energies as it sees fit.* How promptly a finger or even a limb is cut off and cast aside if occasion demands the sacrifice. Upon this gathering together and subordination of simple