

the mouth, (*m*,) however, being free in each, (Fig. 135.)

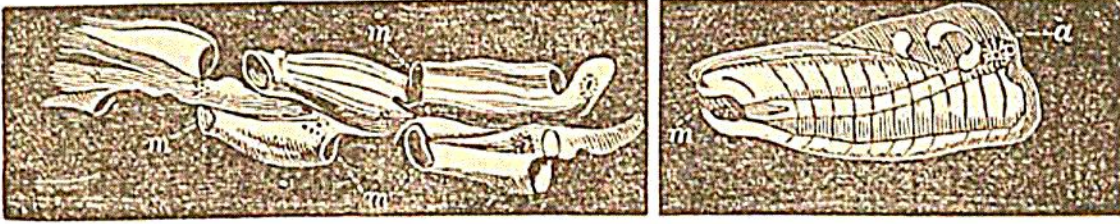


Fig. 135.

Fig. 136.

The individuals thus joined in floating colonies produce eggs; but in each animal there is generally but one egg formed, which is developed in the body of the parent, and from which is hatched a little mollusk, (Fig. 136,) which remains solitary, and differs in many respects from the parent. This little animal, on the other hand, does not produce eggs, but propagates by a kind of budding, which gives rise to chains already seen within the body of their parent, (*a*,) and these again bring forth solitary individuals, &c.

338. In some parasitic worms, alternate generation is accompanied by still more extraordinary phenomena, as is shown by the late discoveries of the Danish naturalist, Steenstrup. Among the numerous animals which inhabit stagnant pools, in which fresh-water shells, particularly *Lymnea* and

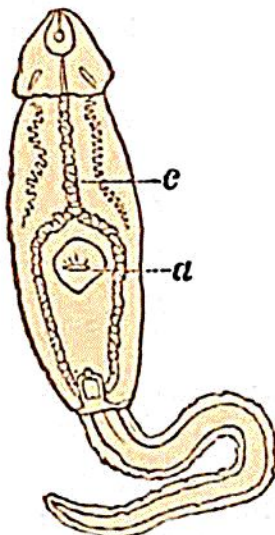


Fig. 137.

*Paludina*, are found, there is a small worm, known to naturalists under the name of *Cercaria*, (Fig. 137.) When examined with a lens, it looks much like a tadpole, with a long tail, a triangular head, and a large sucker (*a*) in the middle of the body. Various viscera appear within, and, among others, a very distinct forked cord, (*c*,) which embraces the sucker, and which is thought to be the liver.

339. If we watch these worms, which always abound in company with the shells mentioned, we find them after a while attaching themselves, by means of their sucker, to the bodies of the mollusks. When