

minous particles, and are there digested, being absorbed by simple diffusion (endosmosis).

Just as simple as the process of nutrition is the *propagation* of these primitive creatures, which in reality we can neither call animals nor plants. All Monera propagate themselves only in a non-sexual manner by monogony; and in the simplest case, by that kind of monogony which we place at the head of the different forms of propagation, that is, by self-division. When such a little globule, for example a Protamœba or a Protogenes, has attained a certain size by the assimilation of foreign albuminous matter, it falls into two pieces; a pinching-in takes place, contracting the middle of the globule on all sides, and finally leads to the separation of the two halves (compare Fig. 1). Each half

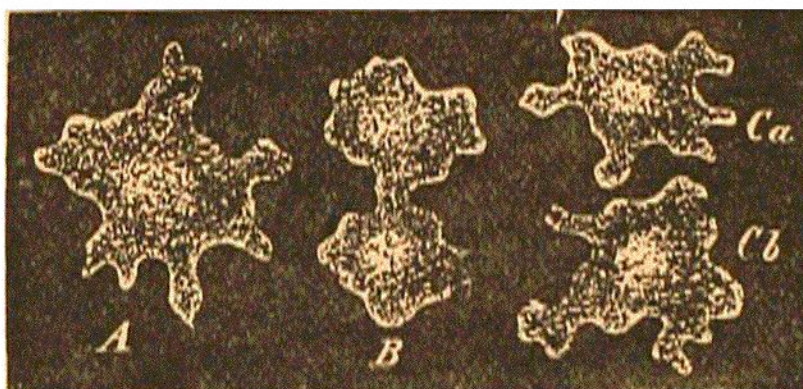


FIG. 1.—Propagation of the simplest organism, a Moneron, by self-division. A. The entire Moneron, a Protamœba. B. It falls into two halves by a contraction in the middle. C. Each of the two halves has separated from the other, and now represents an independent individual.

then becomes rounded off, and now appears as an independent individual, which commences anew the simple course of the vital phenomena of nutrition and propagation. By the separated half becoming gradually replaced by growth, this regeneration destroys a part for the good of the whole. In other Monera (*Vampyrella* and *Glodium*), the body in