

Now, if we understand correctly the nature of this animal, it was related to *A-mæ'-ba*, a minute soft creature often found in stagnant fresh waters. Those who use the microscope to search for animalcules may sometimes discover in the field of view, a little shapeless lump which seems like a particle of dirt, except that it is partially transparent. While wishing it out of the way, it is seen to move. On one side is extended a little arm or tentacle; it is then withdrawn. But suddenly, one or two others are protruded; and we find that the creature generally keeps two or three tentacles extended. But one or all may be very capriciously withdrawn; and when withdrawn, it is impossible to trace any outline of them. The tentacles melt into the general substance of the body. In the interior can be seen what is called a "nucleus" and a "contractile vesicle."

Attending carefully to the movements of *Amœba*, we discover that they have an end in view. The tentacles are extended in search of food. This animal is hungry. It is conscious of hunger. It knows how to secure food. It has a will which sets its organs in motion. It knows how to seize a particle of food. See! its arm is wound about a minute animalcule; it holds it, but now, it does not convey it to the mouth. Where is the mouth? In truth, there is none. The arm is absorbed—animalcule and all. It disappears in the common mass of jelly, and the animalcule is seen within it. So this creature feeds. It gets around its food successfully; but it simply pours itself over it. What an amazing simplicity of structure is here! Indeed, there is no structure; we have little more than a shapeless particle of jelly. Whenever the animal takes breakfast, it extemporizes an arm for seizing it. Whenever it eats, a mouth is extemporized for admission of food, and a stomach is extemporized for receiving and digesting it. From all the ailments of hands, mouth, teeth, and stomach this animal is happily free. Exempt from headache, sore eyes, ringing ears and heart-flutterings, it still exercises all the functions requisite to make it an animal.

And this modern creature is the representative of *Eozoön*.