

“tion of distinct organs occurs, these are formed in continuity with each other.” He adds that organs already differentiated probably in no case become united to homologous ones. M. Dareste does not speak<sup>4</sup> quite decisively against the law of *soi pour soi*, but concludes by saying, “On se rend parfaitement compte de la formation des monstres, si l’on admet que les embryons qui se soudent appartiennent à un même œuf; qu’ils s’unissent en même temps qu’ils se forment, et que la soudure ne se produit que pendant la première période de la vie embryonnaire, celle où les organes ne sont encore constitués que par des blastèmes homogènes.”

By whatever means the abnormal fusion of homologous parts is effected, such cases throw light on the frequent presence of organs which are double during an embryonic period (and throughout life in other and lower members of the same class) but which afterwards unite by a normal process into a single medial organ. In the vegetable kingdom Moquin-Tandon<sup>5</sup> gives a long list of cases, showing how frequently homologous parts, such as leaves, petals, stamens, and pistils, flowers, and aggregates of homologous parts, such as buds, as well as fruit, become blended, both normally and abnormally, with perfect symmetry into one another.

*The Variability of Multiple and Homologous Parts.*—Isidore Geoffroy<sup>6</sup> insists that, when any part or organ is repeated many times in the same animal, it is particularly liable to vary both in number and structure. With respect to number, the proposition may, I think, be considered as fully established; but the evidence is chiefly derived from organic beings living under their natural conditions, with which we are not here concerned. Whenever such parts as the vertebræ or teeth, the rays in the fins of fishes, or the feathers in the tails of birds, or petals, stamens, pistils, or seeds, are very numerous, the number is generally variable. With respect to the structure of multiple parts, the evidence of variability is not so decisive; but the fact, as far as it may be trusted,

<sup>4</sup> ‘Archives de Zoolog. Expér.,’ Jan., 1874, p. 78.

<sup>5</sup> ‘Tératologie Vég.,’ 1841, livre iii.

<sup>6</sup> ‘Hist. des Anomalies,’ tom. iii. pp. 4, 5, 6.