

or flat-worms—is very hypothetical. They are bilateral gastræads, with a flattened oblong body, furnished with ciliæ, with a primitive nervous system, simple sensory and reproductive organs, but still without appendages, body cavity, vent, and blood-vessels. The nearest living representatives of such creatures are the acœlous Turbellarians—*e.g.*, *Convoluta*, a free-swimming, ciliated creature.

7. The next higher stage is represented by such low animals as the *Gastrotricha*—*e.g.*, *Chætonotus* among the Rotatoria, which differ from the rhabdocœlous Turbellarians chiefly by the formation of a vent and the beginnings of a cœlom, or cavity, between gut and body wall. The addition of a primitive vascular system and a pair of nephridia, or excretory organs, is first met with in the *Nemertines*.

8. These, together with the *Enteropneusta* (*Balanoglossus*), are comprised under the name of Frontonia, or Rhynchelminthes, and form the highest group of the Vermalia.