

of gemmules within the parent, channels are provided for their exit: but the gemmules of the *Actinia* force their way through the sides of the body, which readily open to give them passage; after which, the lacerated part soon heals.

In the instances which have now passed under our review, the progeny is, at first, in direct communication with its parent, and does not receive the special protection of membranous envelopes, containing a store of nourishment for its subsequent growth. But in all the more perfect structures, both of animals and vegetables, the germ is provided with auxiliary coverings of this kind, the whole together composing what is called a *seed*, or an *ovum*; the former term being usually applied to vegetable, and the latter to animal productions; and, in both cases, the organ which originally contained them is termed the *ovary*.

The formation and evolution of vegetable seeds take place, not indiscriminately, at every point, as we have seen is the case with simple germs, but only in particular parts of the plant. The *Filices*, or fern tribes, may be taken as examples of this mode of reproduction, the seeds being formed at the under surface of the leaves, apparently by a simple process of evolution; and when detached and scattered on the ground, being farther developed into a plant similar to the parent. The Linnean class of *Cryptogamia* includes all the plants coming under this description. In Animals, likewise, it is only in the particular organs termed *ovaries*, that ova are formed, and they are generally divided into compartments, the whole being enclosed in a membranous covering, bearing a great resemblance to the *seed-capsules* of plants.

The propagation of living beings by means of ova or seeds, is a process of a totally different class from their multiplication by mere slips or buds; and the products of the former

oviparous. Other species, again, imitate the hydra, in being what is termed *gemmiparous*, that is, producing gemmules (like the budding of a plant,) which shoot forth from the side of the parent, and are soon provided with cilia, enabling them, when separated, to provide for their own subsistence, although they are of a very diminutive size when thus cast off.