

left to right, but very irregularly, some going in one direction, others in another; some remaining stationary, while others continue in motion.

Professor Agardh inclines to the opinion that these oscillating plants owe their existence to different species of *animalcules*, which at first swim about as animals, and afterwards fix themselves as plants. This opinion has been adopted by others; and lately Mr. Unger has stated that he has seen animated particles separate from the parent plant, in a few hours converted into globules of vegetable matter, which subsequently became plants perfectly similar to the individual from which they were produced.

But surely the motions of these seeds or germs may be merely mechanical, and may be necessary to enable them properly to fix themselves, somewhat analogous to those mechanical contrivances by which the seeds of numerous plants, as those of the dandelion and cranesbill, are transported to a distance and enabled to enter the soil and fix themselves in it.

That any creature should begin life as an animal and end it as a plant seems to contradict the general analogy of creation, and requires much stronger proofs than appear to have been adduced in the present case, before it can be admitted. The motions of the oscillating plants are not very different from those of the stamina of some, and of the leaves of others, as the *Hedysarum gyrans*; yet Adanson has proved that the vibrations of the filaments are the same both in hot and cold weather, and that the aquatic species are equally sensible with the terrestrial, therefore the movement can scarcely be caused by the temperature. But as analogous motions were observed by Mr. Brown in spherical and other molecules obtained from vegetables, it is evident that such motions do not necessarily indicate an animal, but only a kind of attraction and repulsion produced by an