

apparent diameter were at rest.* It does not appear clearly from the words of the learned author, whether the motion of the mineral molecules was similar to that of the vegetable ones, which he describes as oscillatory. The motions of the mineral fibrils, when not composed of more than two or three molecules, were at least as vivid as those of the simple molecule, and which, from the fibril often changing its position in the fluid, and from its occasional bending, might be said to be somewhat vermicular;† now vermicular movement is a kind of progressive oscillation, the anterior extremity going from side to side and being followed by the body. In other mineral bodies, as in white arsenic, which did not exhibit the fibrils, he found oval particles about the size of two molecules, which he conjectures to be primary combinations of them: their motion, which was more vivid than that of the simple molecule, consisted usually in turning on their longer axis, and then often appearing to be flattened.‡ The revolution of a body upon its axis, it may be observed, implies the action upon it of two equal conflicting forces, by the counteraction of which the revolution is produced and maintained: the same action on the longer fibrils§ would keep them at rest.

My motive for introducing a topic, which, at the first blush, seems to have a very slight connexion with the subject now before me, was a suspicion that sometimes Mr. Brown's molecules may have been mistaken for *Infusory Animals*. Comparing the oscillatory motion he observed in them, and Carus's observation that the motions of Infusories occasionally present the appearance of attraction and repulsion,|| this suspicion seems to merit attention, and to call for more close examination; and it may be observed that

* Brief Account of Microscopical Observations, &c. comp. 10, 11.

† Ibid. 10.

‡ Ubi supra.

§ Ibid. 11.

|| Introd. to Comp. Anat. E. Tr. i. 45. § 57.