them to cohere, and to form the symmetrical figures we observe among natural bodies? The existence of simple, mutual, and general attractive powers among such a set of molecules, has been already observed to be inadequate to explain the phenomena; there must be some specific powers, determining similar particles to combine in similar ways, otherwise the same resulting forms could not be supposed to be pro-

duced. In the three small spheres,* Fig. 1, let us suppose the points E, E, E, and e, e, e, on their super-

ficies, to be endowed with the following properties; viz. that the similar points, E, and E, upon any two of the spheres, have the property of mutually repelling each other; while the dis-

> similar points, E, and e, upon-any two of the spheres, have the property of mutual attraction. In such a case, the three molecules will readily combine E, to e, as in Fig. 2, but in no other way. Now let us suppose the same three spheres to be endowed with pro-

perties at the points M, M, M, and m, m, m, as



Fig.1.

Fig.2.

E

in Fig. 3, nearly resembling the properties with which they are endowed, at the points E, E, E, E,

* Or rather sections of spheres, and the same is to be understood of all the subsequent figures.