

preparations, acted upon by electricity, he can produce certain living animalcula of the mite family ; — the vital and the organized out of the inorganic and the dead. In all such cases, electricity, or rather, according to Oken, galvanism, is regarded as the vitalizing principle. “ *Organism*,” says the German, “ is *galvanism* residing in a thoroughly homogeneous mass. . . . A galvanic pile pounded into atoms must become alive. In this manner nature brings forth organic bodies.” I have even heard it seriously asked whether electricity be not God ! Alas ! could such a god, limited in its capacity of action, like those “ gods of the plains ” in which the old Syrian trusted, have wrought, in the character of Creator, with a variety of result so endless, that in no geologic period has repetition taken place ? In all that purports to be experiment on the development side of the question, we see nothing else save repetition. The *Acarus Crossi* of Mr. Weekes is not a new species, but the *repetition* of an old one, which has been long known as the *Acarus horridus*, a little bristle-covered creature of the mite family, that harbors in damp corners among the debris of outhouses, and the dust and dirt of neglected workshops and laboratories. Nay, even a change in the chemical portion of the experiment by which he believed the creature to be produced, failed to secure variety. A powerful electric current had been sent, in the first instance, through a solution of silicate of potash, and, after a time, the *Acarus horridus* crawled out of the fluid. The current was then sent through a solution of nitrate of copper, and after a due space, the *Acarus horridus* again crept out. A solution of ferro-cyanate of potash was next subjected to the current, and yet again, and in greater numbers than on the two former occasions, there appeared, as in virtue, it would seem, of its extraordinary appetency, *to be* the same ever-