

contained several hundred eggs, which, on being freed from their envelop, float in the water. As these eggs are innumerable, it is not astonishing that the Sculpins should occasionally swallow some of them with their prey. The eggs, being thus introduced into the stomach of the fish, find conditions favorable to their development; and thus the species is propagated, and at the same time transmitted from one generation of the fish to another. The eggs which are not swallowed are probably lost.

363. All animals swallow, in the same manner, with their food, and in the water they drink, numerous eggs of such parasites, any one of which, finding in the intestine of the animal favorable conditions, may be hatched. It is probable that each animal affords the proper conditions for some particular species of worm; and thus we may explain how it is that most animals have parasites peculiar to themselves.

364. As respects the Infusoria, we also know that most of them, the Rotifera especially, lay eggs. These eggs, which are extremely minute, (some of them only $\frac{1}{12000}$ of an inch in diameter,) are scattered every where in great profusion, in water, in the air, in mist, and even in snow. Assiduous observers have not only seen the eggs laid, but moreover, have followed their development, and have seen the young animal forming in the egg, then escaping from it, increasing in size, and, in its turn, laying eggs. They have been able, in some instances, to follow them even to the fifth and sixth generation.

365. This being the case, it is much more natural to suppose that the Infusoria * are products of like germs, than

* In this connection, it ought to be remembered that a large proportion of the so-called Infusoria are not independent animals, but immature germs, belonging to different classes of the Animal Kingdom, and that many must be referred to the Vegetable Kingdom.