

'Gastræatheorie,' the first abstract of which was published in 1872 in my monograph of the *Calcispongiæ*.

These ideas were carried on and expanded during the subsequent ten years by the help of many excellent embryologists—first of all by E. Ray Lankester and Francis Balfour. The most fruitful result of these widely extended researches was the conclusion that the first stages of embryonic development are essentially the same in all the different Metazoa, and that we may derive from these facts certain views on the common descent of all from one ancestral form. The unicellular egg\* repeats the stage of our Protozoan ancestors; the Blastula is equivalent to an ancestral cœnobium of *Magosphæra* or *Volvox*; the Gastrula is the hereditary repetition of the *Gastræa*, the common ancestor of all the Metazoa.

Man agrees in all these respects with the other vertebrates, and must have descended with them from the same common root.

\* See note, p. 115—Theory of cells.