

malcule resembling an eel in its shape, which infest diseased wheat, and which, when dried, appears in the form of a fine powder: on being moistened it soon resumes its living and active state.* The *Gordius aquaticus*, or hair worm, which inhabits stagnant pools, and which remains in a dry and apparently lifeless state when the pond is evaporated, will, in like manner, revive, in a very short time, on being again immersed in water. The same phenomenon is exhibited by the *Filaria*, a thread-like parasitic worm, infesting the cornea of the eye of the horse.†

Both the composition of the fluid and the texture of the solid parts of animal and vegetable bodies are infinitely varied, according to the purposes they are designed to serve in the economy. Scarcely any part is perfectly homogeneous; that is, composed throughout of a single uniform material. Few of the fluids are entirely limpid, and none are perfectly simple in their composition; for they generally contain more or less of a gelatinous matter, which, when very abundant, imparts to them viscosity, constituting an approach to the solid state. Many fluids contain minute masses of matter, generally having a globular shape, which can be seen only by means of the microscope, and which float in the surrounding liquid, and often thicken it in a very sensible manner.‡ We next perceive that these globules have, in many instances, cohered, so as to form solid masses; or have united in lines, so as to constitute fibres. We find these fibres collecting and adhering together in bundles; or interwoven and agglutinated, composing various other forms of texture; sometimes resembling a loose net-work of filaments; sometimes constituting laminæ or plates; and, at other times, both plates and filaments combining to form an irregular spongy fabric. These various tissues, again, may themselves be regarded as the constituent materials of which the several organs of the body are constructed, with different degrees of complication,

* See a paper on this subject by Mr. Bauer, Phil. Trans. for 1823, p. 1.

† De Blainville, Annales des Sciences Naturelles; X. 104.

‡ Globules of this description have been found in the lymph, the saliva; and even in the aqueous humour of the eye.