

The parts of the *Spongia panicea*, which are naturally transparent, contain at certain seasons a multitude of opaque yellow spots, visible to the naked eye, and which, when examined by means of a microscope, are found to consist of groups of ova, or more properly *gemmules*,† since we cannot discover that they are furnished with any envelope. In the course of a few months these gemmules enlarge in size, each assuming an oval or pear-like shape, and are then seen projecting from the sides of the internal canals of the parent, to which they adhere by their narrow extremities. In process of time they become detached, one after the other, and are swept along by the currents of fluid, which are rapidly passing out of the larger orifices. Fig. 55, represents one of these gemmules detached from the parent sponge. When thus set at liberty, they do not sink by their gravity to the bottom of the water, as would have happened had they been devoid of life; but they continue to swim by their own spontaneous motions, for two or three days after their separation from the parent. In their progression through the fluid they are observed always to carry their rounded broad extremity forwards. On examining this part with the microscope, we find that it is covered with short filaments, or cilia, which are in constant and rapid vibration. These cilia are spread over about two-thirds of the surface of the body, leaving the narrower portion, which has a whiter and more pellucid appearance, uncovered. They are very minute transparent filaments, broadest at their base, and taper-

if by a kind of organic crystallization, thereby forming the stems and branched filaments of these apparent plants. These singular productions, which have been recently studied by M. Gaillon, and which he has established into a natural family, denominated *Nemazouria*, seem in their progressive developments, to possess alternately the characters of vegetables and of animals, and may perhaps be regarded as connecting links between the two great kingdoms of living nature. (See "Apperçu d'Histoire Naturelle, et Observations sur les limites qui séparent le Règne Végétal du Règne Animal. Par B. Gaillon. Boulogne, 1833.")

† *Gemmule* is a term derived from the Latin word *gemma*, a bud; and its meaning, as applied to zoophytes, is that of a young animal, not contained within an envelope, or egg.