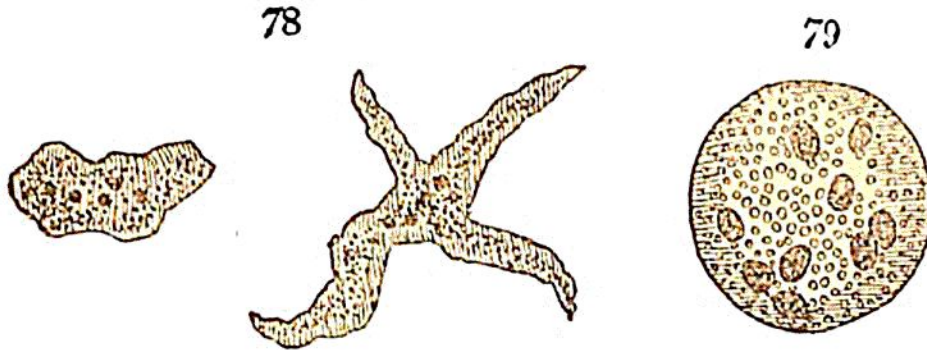


as the *Kolpoda*, a waving outline. Some, as the *Urceolaria*, present the likeness of a bell or funnel, and appear to be analogous to the *Vorticella*, in which genus they should probably be included.

Forms still more irregular are exhibited by other infusoria. Of these the most singular is the *Proteus* (Fig. 78,) which cannot, indeed, be said to have any determinate shape,



for it seldom remains the same for two minutes together. It looks like a mass of soft jelly, highly irritable and contractile in every part; at one time wholly shrunk into a ball, at another stretched out into a lengthened riband; and again, at another moment, perhaps, we find it doubled upon itself like a leech. If we watch its motions for any time, we see some parts shooting out, as if suddenly inflated, and branching forth into star-like radiations, or assuming various grotesque shapes, while other parts will, in like manner, be as quickly contracted. Thus the whole figure may, in an instant, be completely changed, by metamorphoses as rapid as they are irregular and capricious.

The *Volvox globator*, (Fig. 79) is found in prodigious numbers at the surface of many stagnant pools. Its figure is perfectly spherical; and its movements consist in a continual and rapid rotation, round its axis, frequently remaining all the while in the same spot. Another species, the *Volvox confictor*, moves by turning alternately to the right and to the left.

The progressive movements of infusory animalcules are of two kinds, the one consisting in a smooth and equable gliding the whole of its alcohol. In this last fluid they sometimes attain so large a size as to be visible to the naked eye.