

341. When they have reached a certain size, the young Cercariæ leave the body of the nurse, and move freely in the abdominal cavity of the mollusks, or escape from it into the water, to fix themselves, in their turn, to the body of another mollusk, and begin their transformations anew.

342. But this is not the end of the series. The nurses of the Cercaria are themselves the offspring of little worms of yet another kind. At certain seasons, we find in the viscera of the Limnea, worms somewhat like the nurses of Cercaria in shape, (Fig. 141,) but rather longer, more slender, and having a much more elongated stomach, (s.) These worms contain, in the hinder part of the body, little embryos, (a,) which are the young nurses, like Figures 139, 140. This generation

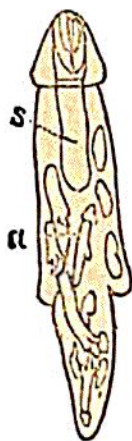


Fig. 141.

has received the name of *grand-nurses*.

343. Supposing these grand-nurses to be the immediate offspring of the Distoma, (Fig. 138,) as is probable, we have thus a quadruple series of generation. Four generations and one metamorphosis are required to evolve the perfect animal; in other words, the parent finds no resemblance to himself in any of his progeny, until he comes down to the great-grandson.

344. Among the Aphides, or plant-lice, the number of generations is still greater. The first generation, which is produced from eggs, soon undergoes metamorphoses, and then gives birth to a second generation, which is followed by a third, and so on; so that it is sometimes the eighth or ninth generation before the perfect animals appear as males and females, the sexes being then for the first time distinct, and the males provided with wings. The females lay eggs, which are hatched the following year, to repeat the same succession. Each generation is an additional step towards the perfect state; and, as each member of the succession is