

species, the formation of a new race cannot succeed—selection, in fact, cannot take place. Unlimited crossing, unhindered sexual mingling of all individuals of a species, will always produce uniformity, and drive varieties, whose characteristics have not been fixed throughout a series of generations, back to the primary form.”

This sentence, in which Wagner himself comprises the main result of his investigations, he would be able to defend only if all organisms were of separate sexes, if every origin of new individuals were possible only by the mingling of male and female individuals. But this is by no means the case. Curiously enough, Wagner says nothing of the numerous hermaphrodites which, possessing both the sexual organs, are capable of self-fructification, and likewise nothing of the countless organisms which are not sexually differentiated.

Now, from the earliest times of the organic history of the earth, there have existed thousands of organic species (thousands of which still exist) in which no difference of sex whatever exists, and, in fact, in which no sexual propagation takes place, and which exclusively reproduce themselves in a non-sexual manner by division, budding, formation of spores, etc. All the great mass of Protista, the Monera, Amœbæ, Myxomycetes, Rhizopoda, Infusoria, etc., in short, all the lower organisms which we shall have to enumerate in the domain of Protista, standing midway between the animal and vegetable kingdoms, propagate themselves *exclusively in a non-sexual manner*. And this domain comprises a class of organisms which is one of the richest in forms, nay, even in a certain respect the richest of all in forms, as all possible geometrical fundamental