

Although Leeuwenhoek had not such an opportunity of undeceiving himself, he nevertheless had another phenomena which ought to have had that effect ; for example, he had remarked that the spermatic animals of a dog often change their figures, especially when the liquor was on the point of evaporating ; that these pretended animals had a hole in the head when they were dead, and that this hole did not appear when they were alive ; he had seen that the part which he looked upon as the head was full and plump when it was alive, and flaccid and flat when dead. All this ought to have led him to doubt whether these moving bodies were real animals ; and consider it as agreeing better with a machine, which empties itself like that of the calmar, than with a moving animal.

I have said that these moving bodies, these organic particles, do not move like animals, nor have an interval of rest. Leeuwenhoek has observed the same: “ Quotiescunque, says he, animalcula in semine masculo animalium fuerim contemplatus, attamen illa se unquam ad quietem contulisse, me nunquam vidisse, mihi dicendum est, si modo sat fluidæ superesset materiae