

nourishment, has been able to illustrate their organization in an extraordinary degree. He employed a solution of pure indigo for this purpose; and the results of his experiments are highly interesting. Immediately on a minute particle of a very attenuated solution of indigo being applied to a drop of water containing some of the pedunculated *vorticellæ*,* the most beautiful phenomena are observable. Currents are excited in the fluid in all directions, by the rapid motion of the cilia which form a crown round the anterior part of the body of the animalcule, and the particles of indigo are seen moving in different directions, but generally all converging towards the orifice or mouth, which is situated not in the centre of the crown of cilia, but between the two rows of these organs, which exist consecutive to one another. The attention is no sooner drawn to this beautiful phenomenon, than presently the body of the animal, which was before quite transparent, becomes dotted with distinctly circumscribed spots, of a dark blue colour, exactly corresponding to that of the moving particles of indigo. In some species, particularly in those

* The *Vorticellæ*, rotiferæ, or wheel-polypi, as they are commonly termed, from the supposition that they have organs which move round like a wheel, have cilia disposed in circles, which seen in some directions, when moving with great velocity, appear like wheels.—*Encyclop. Anat. and Phys.* p. 607. A lucid account of these animals, and of the whole family of infusoria and polyparia, is given by Dr. Roget, in his Bridgewater Essay: a work of great labour and profound research.