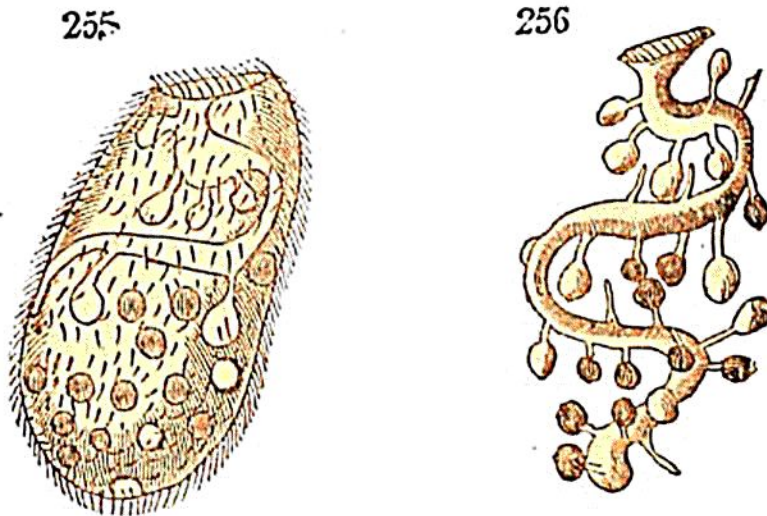


among this order of beings. Whole generations of these transparent gelatinous animalcules may remain immersed for weeks in an indigo solution, without presenting any coloured points in their tissue, except the circumscribed cavities above described.

Great variety is found to exist in the forms, situations, and arrangement of the organs of digestion in the Infusoria. They differ also in their degree of complication, but without any obvious relation to the magnitude of the animalcule. The *Monas atomus*, the minutest of the whole tribe, exhibits a number of sacs, opening by as many separate orifices, from a circumscribed part of the surface. In others, as in the *Leucophra patula*, of which Fig. 255 represents the appearance under the microscope, there is a long alimentary



canal, traversing the greater part of the body, taking several spiral turns, and furnished with a great number of *cæca*; a term which denotes blind pouches, proceeding laterally from any internal canal, and having no other outlet. These cavities become filled with coloured particles immediately after their entrance into the alimentary canal; and must, therefore, be considered as so many stomachs provided for the digestion of the food which they receive.* But they are not all filled at the same time, for some continue long in a

* Ehrenberg terms these *Polygastric infusoria*, from the Greek, signifying *with many stomachs*.