

contracted state, so as not to be visible; while, at another time, they readily admit the coloured food. It is, therefore, only by dint of patient watching that the whole extent of the alimentary tube, and its apparatus of stomachs, can be fully made out. Fig. 255, above referred to, exhibits the *Leucophra patula* of Ehrenberg,\* with a few of its stomachs filled with the opaque particles; but Fig. 256 shows the whole series of organs as they would appear if they could be taken out of the body, and placed in the same relative situation with the eye of the observer, as they are seen in the first figure. In some species, from one to two hundred of these sacs may be counted, connected with the intestinal tube. Many of the larger species, as the *Hydatina senta*, exhibit a greater concentration of organs, having only a single oval cavity of considerable size, situated in the fore part of the body. In the *Rotifer vulgaris*, the alimentary canal is a slender tube, considerably dilated near its termination. In some *Vorticellæ*, the intestine, from which proceed numerous cæca, makes a complete circular turn, ending close to its commencement: Ehrenberg forms of these the tribe of *Cyclocæla* of which the *Vorticella citrina*, and the *Stentor polymorphus*, are examples. Thus do we discover the same diversity in the structure of the digestive organs of the several races of these diminutive beings, as is found in the other classes of animals.

The *Hydatina senta*, one of the largest of the infusoria, was found by Ehrenberg to possess a highly developed structure with respect to many systems of organs, which we should never have expected to meet with in animals situated so low in the scale. As connected with the nutritive functions, it may here be mentioned that the head of this animalcule is provided with a regular apparatus for mastication, consisting of serrated jaws, each having from two to six teeth. These jaws are seen actively opening and shutting when the animal is taking its food, which consists of

\* *Trichoda patula*. Muller.