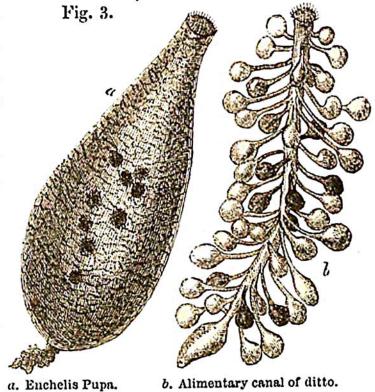
waters; are supposed to float in the air; they are found in the blood and urine; in the tartar of the teeth; in animal substances; in vinegar; in paste; in vegetable substances; in fruits, seeds, and grain; in sand; amongst tiles; in wells; on mountains, &c. Their numbers are infinite; hundreds of thousands may be seen in a single drop of water; their minuteness is extreme, some being not more than 2000 part of a line in length, and yet these atoms of animals have a mouth and several stomachs.

Let a man, says Dalyell, the translator of Spallanzani, conceive himself in a moment conveyed to a region where the properties, and the figure and motions of every animal are unknown. The amazing varieties of these will first attract his attention. One is a long slender line; another an eel or serpent; some are circular, elliptical, or triangular; one is a thin flat plate; another like a number of reticulated seeds; several have a long tail, almost invisible; or their posterior part is terminated by two robust horns; one is like a funnel; another like a bell, or cannot be referred to

any object familiar to our senses. Certain animalcules can change their figure at pleasure: * sometimes they are extended to immoderate length, then almost contracted to nothing; sometimes they are curved like a leech, or coiled like a snake; sometimes they are in-



* Fig. 4.