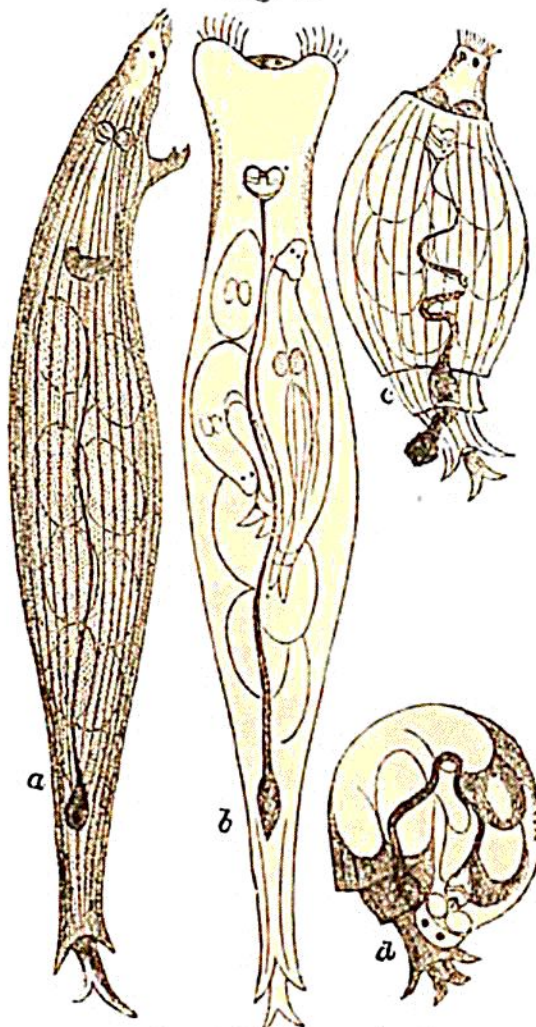


flated, at others flaccid; some are opaque, while others are scarcely visible from their extreme transparency. No less singular is the variety of their motions;—several swim with the velocity of an arrow, so that the eye can scarcely follow them; others appear to drag their body along with difficulty, and move like the leech; and others seem to exist in perpetual rest; one will revolve on its centre, or the anterior part of its head; others move by undulations, leaps, oscillations, or successive gyrations;—in short, there is no kind of animal motion, or other mode of progression, that is not practised by animalcules.

Their organs are equally various. Some appear to take their food by absorption, having no mouth; to this tribe

Fig. 4.



a. b. c. d. Rotifera vulgaris.

belong what have been called vinegar eels: others have a mouth and several stomachs, but no orifice for the transmission of their excrements; others, again, have both a mouth and anal passage, and what is wonderful, in such minute creatures, sometimes as many as forty or fifty stomachs;* though many are without eyes, others are furnished with these useful organs, some having one, others two, others three, and others four; some have processes resembling legs. In the second class of these animals, the *Rotatories*, to which the wheel-animalcules belong, the in-

* *Leucophrys*, *Enchelis*, &c.