

a rabbit, one of whose extremities was thicker than the other ; they were very lively and active, struck the liquor with their tails, and twisted and turned themselves like snakes. At last (says Valisnieri) I clearly perceived them to be real animals, “ e gli riconobbi, e gli giudicai senza dubitamento alcuno per veri, verissimi arciverissimi vermi*.” This author, who was prejudiced with the system of eggs, has, nevertheless, admitted of spermatic worms, and taken them for real animals.

M. Andry having made observations on these spermatic worms of a man, pretends that they are only found in the age proper for generation ; that in the younger years, and in old age, they do not exist : that in those affected with venereal disorders there are very few, and those are languishing, and for the most part dead : that in impotent persons we do not see any alive ; that these worms in the semen of men have larger heads than in that of other animals, which agrees, he says, with the figure of the foetus and the child ; and he adds, those people who too frequently enjoy female amours, have generally but few or none of these animalcules in their semen.

Leeuwenhoeck,

* Opere dell. Cav. Valisnieri, vol. II. page 105.