

neration of themselves, but for the production of males and females, which was very difficult to conceive by a simple transformation. He speaks of the male and female animalcule, in his letter printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 145, and in many parts of his works,\* but he does not describe the difference of these male and female animalcules, and which in fact never existed but in his own imagination.

The famous Boerhaave having asked Leeuwenhoek, if he had not observed in spermatic animals different degrees of growth and size? Leeuwenhoek answered, that having dissected a rabbit, he observed in the semen an infinite number of living animals. “*Incredibilem, says he, viventium animalculorum, numerum conspexerunt, cum hæc animalcula scypho imposita vitreo & illic emortua, in rariores ordines disparassent, & per continuos aliquot dies sæpius visu examinasset, quædam ad justam magnitudinem nondum excrevisse adverti. Ad hæc quasdam observavi particulas perexiles & oblongas, alias aliis majores, &, quantum oculis apparebat, cauda destitutas; quas quidem particulas non nisi animalcula esse credidi, quæ ad*  
justam

\* See vol. I. page 163, and vol. III. page 101, of his works.