

they have not been engendered, they engender others. By cutting them with the point of a lancet, we may perceive small eels come from their bodies in great numbers; the body of the animal appears to be only a sheath or bag which contains a multitude of other little animals, which perhaps are themselves only sheaths of the same kind, in which the organic matter assimilates, and takes the form of eels.

There requires a great number of observations to be made to establish classes and races between such singular beings, which are at present so little known; there are some which may be regarded as real zoophytes, which vegetate, and at the same time appear to twirl and move like animals. There are some that at first appear to be animals, which afterwards join and form kinds of vegetables. A little attention to the decomposition of a grain of wheat infused in water will elucidate all I have asserted. I could add more examples, but I have related these only to point out the varieties there are in generation. There are certainly organized beings which we regard as animals, but which are not engendered by others of the same kind; there
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