microscopic, swarm in the arctic seas, so as to give a color to the water for hundreds of miles; and a cubic foot of water, taken up indiscriminately, was found by Captain Scoresby to contain 100,000.* And he estimates that, if 80,000 persons had been counting since the creation, they would not yet have been able to number those that exist in the arctic seas at the present moment.† I have already stated that the wasp will multiply 30,000 fold in one summer. The queen of the termites, or African ant, will deposit 80,000 eggs in 24 hours. A cyclops, a species of insect, is capable of multiplying so prodigiously, that in four months her descendants would amount to 4500 millions. A single herring is capable of depositing from 20,000 to 37,000 eggs; a carp, 200,000; the tench, 383,000; and the flounder, 1,000,000. But the common oyster might produce 1,200,000; and if these were each to become a full-grown oyster, they would fill 1200 barrels.

The last tribe of animals, called animalcula, or infusoria, which are all microscopic, present examples of increase still more surprising. Indeed, the splendid discoveries of the Prussian naturalist Ehrenberg have disclosed a world of wonders in the microscopic department of nature no less astonishing than those brought to light by the telescope. He has described no less than 1000 species of animalcula, which swim in salt and fresh water, in many of the fluids of the living and healthy animal — in short, in all vegetable and animal substances, and in the atmosphere. The smallest of these animals are not more than one forty thousandth of an inch in diameter; and so thickly are they sometimes crowded together, that a small drop of fluid contains 500,000,000, or

* Roget, Vol. I. p. 143. † Kirby, p. 450.