

varieties, always so much the more singular as they are the more remote from our sight, and from the varieties of other animals that have already become known to us.

For example, spurred barley, which is produced by an alteration or decomposition of the organic substance of the grain, is composed of an infinity of little organized bodies, like to eels. By infusing the grain for ten or twelve hours in water, we find them to have a remarkable twirling, and a slight progressive motion; when almost dry, they cease to move, but by adding fresh water their motion returns. The same effects may be produced for months, or even years; insomuch that we can make these little machines act as often and as long as we please without destroying them, or their losing any of their power or activity. Their threads will sometimes open, like the filaments of semen, and produce moving globules; we may therefore suppose them to be of the same nature, only more fixed and solid.

Eels, in paste made with flour, have no other origin than the union of the organic particles of the most essential parts of the grain: the first which appear are certainly not produced by many others; yet, although they