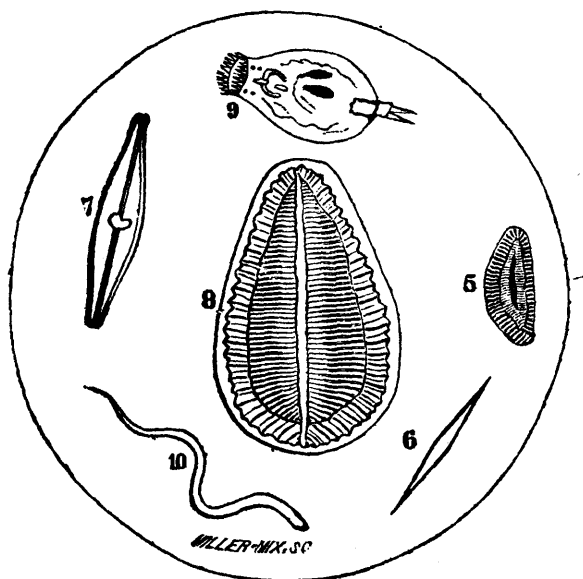


points near the head of the animalcule, indicate the position of its eyes, which are red. The number of eyes with which this species is supplied, although double that of most larger animals, is only half that of some other animalcule forms. The classification of animalcules, is based in part upon the number of visual organs.

It will be noticed that there is about the head of this animalcule a circle of fibres or hairs, forming a kind of crown. These cilia as they are termed by the peculiarity of their movements, produce the appearance of a revolving wheel, hence this animalcule and all others, provided with similarly moving organs, will be embraced in the great family of the *rotatoria*.



It is supposed that these cilia are organs of respiration, and their continual motion is necessary in order to produce currents in the water, and thus continually bring fresh portions of water, charged with air, in contact with these organs. The close resemblance to the motion of a toothed wheel, in the operation of these cilia, is very surprising. The effect is produced by the seeming vibratory motion of each of these hairs, as it describes a circle with its point; the motion not being readily distinguishable, except through one half of the circle described; the impression produced, when all are seen in motion at once, is, that it is a wheel in rapid revolution.