

indefatigable zeal with which modern helminthologists pursue their favourite study answer. Consider Rudolphi who consecrated a life to the collection and classification of parasites ; Bremser who collected in his *Atlas* the greatest number of facts upon the subject known at his time ; Dujardin who in five years explored 3000 animals in search of parasites ; Leuwenhoeck, who maintained two pediculi in his stockings for two months, to ascertain their power of increase. To form the museum of helminthology at Vienna and collect 368 specimens, in five years, forty-five thousand vertebrata were opened.

Ignoring the prejudices of the vulgar mind, the modern naturalist pushes his researches into the most remote localities, the most forbidding places, confident that his labours will not be fruitless. Their functions, numbers, history, intimate relation with industrial pursuits, and with medicine, all combine to give interest to parasites.

Each tissue in plants and animals seems adapted to support some special inhabitant. Among vegetables, the root, bark, duramen, and above all, the leaves, support a numerous secondary existence ; and animals are equally liable to the encroachment of parasites. One species infests the cellular tissue, another the brain, another the liver, and so on.

The aphides, from their numbers and peculiar embryology, merit special attention. One species at least, and often several, of these diminutive creatures belong to every species of plant. The sensibilities of some of them are so acute that only a single species of plant will serve for their food. Others are not so susceptible, but subsist upon all leaves that they light upon. The procreative powers of these creatures are so enormous, that Reaumur estimated 5,904,900,000, as the possible offspring in the fifth generation from a single aphid. This fecundity sufficiently accounts for the enormous destruction of plants which they yearly inflict. Not unfrequently they have caused such fearful ravages over large regions of country, that governments have adopted compulsory measures for their destruction. They constitute many of the blights spoken of in common parlance. Their embryology as far as I know has no parallel among the rest of the insect world, but finds its analogies among the entozoa.

Provision is always carefully made to keep each species of animal in due bounds. Those creatures that are most liable to destruction have the greatest powers of reproduction.