

dred and fifty, can subsist in a single caterpillar. The little ichneumon repeats her *operations* until she has darted into her victim the requisite number of eggs. The larvæ, hatched from the eggs thus ingeniously deposited, find a delicious banquet in the body of the caterpillar, which is sure eventually to fall a victim to their ravages. So accurately, however, is the supply of food proportioned to the demand, that this event does not take place until the young ichneumons have *attained* their full growth. In this strange and apparently cruel *operation* one circumstance is truly remarkable. The larvæ of the ichneumon, though every day, perhaps, it gnaws the inside of the caterpillar, and though at last it has devoured almost every part of it, except the skin and intestines, carefully all this time avoids injuring the vital organs, as if aware that its own existence *depends* on that of the insect on which it preys. Thus the caterpillar continues to eat, to *digest*, and to move, apparently little injured, to the last, and only perishes when the grub within it no longer requires its aid.

Another tribe of ichneumons, whose activity and perseverance are equally conspicuous, like the insidious cuckoo contrive to introduce their eggs into the nests in which bees and other insects have deposited theirs. With this view they are constantly on the watch, and the moment the unsuspecting mother has quitted her cell, for the purpose of collecting a store of food or materials, glide into it and leave an egg, the germ of a future assassin of the larva which is to spring from that deposited by its side.

There is a spider common under clods of earth, which may at once be distinguished by a white globular silken bag, about the size of a pea, in which she has deposited her eggs, attached to the