

Rbeaumur, and Linnæus, undertook the task of abridging their descriptions; and Goldsmith, availing himself of their joint labours, has, with much propriety divided the whole class of insects into four separate distributions. His arrangement we shall principally follow, as under it may be contained a sufficiently comprehensive detail of the whole class of insects, which he has faithfully described to consist of “ little
“ animals without red blood, bones, or carti-
“ lages, furnished with a trunk, or else a mouth
“ opening lengthwise, with eyes which they are
“ incapable of covering, and with lungs which
“ have their opening on the sides. This de-
“ finition comprehends the whole class of in-
“ sects, whether with or without wings, whe-
“ ther in their caterpillar or butterfly state,
“ whether produced in the ordinary method of
“ generation between male and female, or from
“ an animal that is itself both male and female,
“ or from the same animal cut into several
“ parts, and each part producing a perfect ani-
“ mal.”

The *first* animals that offer themselves are those that want wings, which appear crawling about on every plant, and on every spot of earth which we regard with any degree of attention.