

animals, such as the dog, cat, poultry, pigeons, &c. In the warm climates they are in the greatest abundance, particularly in the southern parts of France and Italy, but in the northern they are by much the most tormenting; and Goldsmith says, the bite of the flea is more troublesome in England than he ever found it in any other place. If it be examined with a microscope, the flea will be observed to have a small head, large eyes, and a roundish body. It has two feelers, or horns, which are short, and composed of four joints, and between these lies its trunk, which it buries in the skin, and through which it sucks the blood in large quantities. The body appears to be curiously adorned all over with a suit of polished sable armour, neatly jointed, and beset with a great number of sharp pins, almost like the quills of a porcupine. It has six legs, the joints of which are so adapted, that it can, as it were, fold them up one within another, and when it leaps they all spring out at once, in which effort its whole strength is exerted, and the body thrown, comparatively, to a considerable distance.

The flea deposits a multitude of nits, or eggs, which are round and smooth, and from these proceed white worms, of a shining pearl colour;