

and this is a sufficient inducement to suppose, that they preserve their first appearance, through the whole of their existence. It is probable, however, that, like most of this class, they often change their skins; but of this we have no certain information.

The *Leech*, from its uses in medicine, is one of those insects that man has taken care to propagate; but of a great variety, one kind only is considered as serviceable. The *horse-leech*, which is the largest of all, and grows to four inches in length, with a glossy black surface, is of no use, as it will not stick to the skin; the *snail-leech* is but an inch in length; and though it will stick, is not large enough to extract a sufficiently quantity of blood from the patient; the *broad-tailed leech*, which grows to a inch and a half in length, with the back raised into a sort of ridge, will stick but on very few occasions; it is the large *brown leech* with a whitish belly, that is made use of in medicine, and whose history best merits our curiosity.

The leech has the general figure of a worm, and is about as long as one's middle finger. Its skin is composed of rings, by means of which