

of the common sort, who form a kind of retinue, and follow her wherever she goes with a sedate and grave tread. Those which compose her train are supposed to be the males, who impregnate her by turns. Before she lays her eggs, she examines the cells where she designs to deposit them, and if she finds that they contain neither honey, wax, nor any embryo, she introduces the posterior part of her body into a cell; and fixes to the bottom of it a small white egg, which is composed of a thin white membrane, full of a whitish liquor. In this manner she goes on, leaving one in each cell until she has visited as many cells as she has eggs, which commonly amount to some thousands. Sometimes more than one egg is deposited in the same cell, but when this is the case, the working bees remove the supernumerary eggs, and leave one in each. A day or two after it is deposited, the worm is excluded from the shell of the egg, having the appearance of a maggot rolled up in a ring, and lying softly on a bed of a whitish coloured jelly; upon which also the little animal begins to feed. In the mean time, the instant it appears, the working bees attend it with the most anxious and parental tenderness. Thus attended, and plentifully