

When the young maggot comes to its full growth, the breast swells insensibly, it casts its skin, and loses all motion. All the members which were before hidden, then begin to appear; an aurelia is formed, which represents, very distinctly, all the parts of the animal, though they are yet without motion, and, as it were, wrapped up in swaddling clothes. When, at length, the little insect has passed through all its changes, and acquired its proper maturity, it bursts this last skin, to assume the form it is to retain ever after. Yet this is not done by its efforts alone, for the old ones very assiduously break open, with their teeth, the covering in which it is enclosed. Without this assistance the aurelia would never be able to get free, as De Geer often found, who tried the experiment, by leaving the aurelia to themselves. The old ones not only assist them, but know the very precise time for lending their assistance; for, if produced too soon, the young one dies of cold; if retarded too long, they are suffocated in their prison.

When the female has done laying, and the whole brood is thus produced, her labours, as well as that of the male, become unnecessary; and her wings, which she had but a short time before so actively employed, drop off. What becomes