

it their business to catch them. When they are caught they dry them, after which they are so light, that fifty will hardly weigh a dram. Those that gather them, tie them in a bag, or a piece of linen cloth, that has been well worn, and then they kill them with the vapours of hot vinegar, after which, they are dried in the sun, and kept in boxes.

Another insect of great use in medicine, is the *Kermes*; it is produced in the excrescence of an oak, called the *berry-bearing ilex*, and appears at first wrapt up in a membranous bladder, of the size of a pea, smooth and shining, of a brownish red colour, and covered with a very fine ash-coloured powder. This bag teems with a number of reddish eggs, or insects, which being rubbed with the fingers, pour out a crimson colour. It is only met with in warm countries in May and June.

In the month of April it becomes of the size and shape of a pea, and its eggs some time after burst from the womb, and soon turning into worms, run about the branches and leaves of the tree. The males are very distinct from the females, and are a sort of small flies like gnats, with six feet, of which the four forward