

muscle, that runs round its whole body, from the head to the tail, somewhat resembling a wire wound round, which, when one end is extended and held fast, will bring the other nearer to it; in this manner the earth-worm, having shot out, or extended its body, takes hold by the slime of the fore part of its body, and so contracts and brings forward the hinder part: and in this manner it moves onward, but not without considerable effort. Its body is armed with small stiff sharp burrs, or prickles, which it can erect or depress at pleasure; under the skin there lies a slimy juice, that is ejected as occasion requires, at certain perforations, between the rings of the muscles, to lubricate its body, and facilitate its passage into the earth. Like most other insects, it has breathing holes along the back, adjoining each ring; but it is without bones, without eyes, without ears, and, properly, without feet. It has a mouth, and also an alimentary canal, which runs along to the very point of the tail. In some worms, however, particularly such as are found in the bodies of animals, this canal opens towards the middle of the belly, at some distance from the tail. The intestines of the earth-