

vents it from over-feeding, and so the leeches may be of use to the larger aquatic animals, at the same time that the smaller ones, such as the grubs of insects, must generally perish from the insertion of their sharp jaws, and the suction of their proboscis.

Yet, as we see, this is one of the animals that man has taken into alliance with him, and this no doubt Providence intended he should, and probably directed him to it; I mean by causing certain circumstances to take place that attracted his attention and indicated its probable use. So that what at first put him to pain, and caused him alarm, he found, upon trial, might be rendered a very valuable addition to his means of cure when attacked by disease, or when he was suffering from a local injury.

The leech tribe, besides its utility in the exercise of its own function, may be useful as affording nutriment to some other animals, as fishes and birds.

2. The *earth-worms*\* form a principal feature of the next Order, and afford a delicious morsel to birds of every wing. The fisherman also baits his hook with them, and the ground-beetles† often make a meal of them, so that had they no other use, still they would be a very important part of the creation. But their great function appears to be that of boring the earth in all directions, whereby they are useful to the farmer and grazier, giving a kind of under-tillage to pasture and other lands, and by the casts which they everywhere throw up, they help to manure the soil, and do the same for pastures that the spade does for the garden and the plough for arable land, place the soil that laid below above. Their food being vegetable detritus, what passes from them must be very good manure.

The anatomy of these well-known animals is very sin-

\* *Lumbricus* (Enterion Sav.) *terrestris*. L. &c.

† *Carabus*, L.