

follow each other at an interval of five or six days, and it is not till after the third that the animal has acquired the reproductive faculty.

In the antecedent classes of the animal kingdom, which were almost all inhabitants of the water, we have seen no instances of animals casting their skins, or undergoing any metamorphosis—either in the number or form of their parts—in their progress to their adult state. Some few shell-fish indeed, are stated to cast their shells, and form others,* but a degree of doubt rests upon the fact. In the Branchiopods however, a kind of metamorphosis, as well as the moult just described, has long been noticed and recorded.

The young ones of the *Cyclops*, the animal before mentioned as an analogue of the sugar-louse, when first hatched have only *four* legs, their body is nearly round, and has no tail, which led Müller to mistake them for species of a different genus;† soon afterwards another pair is acquired, which the same author regarded as a second genus,‡ and so it proceeds till it assumes the perfect form of its kind. Nordmann has given figures of a very remarkable Lernean parasite,§ which infests the perch, representing its whole progress, from the egg to the perfect insect, which, like the *Cyclops*, does not acquire all its organs, except at its last metamorphosis (*fig.* 68).

Our progress upwards, as far as we have at present proceeded, has been a gradual advance, form after form appearing upon the stage of animal existence, each distinguished by characters indicating an elevation as to rank and station. But in the animals amongst which the law in question obtains, we see the same individual, at different periods of its existence, assuming a higher tone of character, and often endued with organs that fit it for a more extended

* See above, vol. i. p. 283.

† *Amydone*.

‡ *Nauplius*.

§ *Actheres Percarum*.