

common lobster ; yet in another place, under the same name, he appears to mean the other.* It is not known exactly to what use these smaller pincers are applied ; it must be observed, however, that if the legs are regarded as naturally pointing towards the head, as in Dr. Leach's figure of *Nephrops*, the moveable thumb in all is on the same side. The antennæ in this genus are about the length of the body. The pincers of the hand are very powerful and tubercular ; they are used by these animals both to seize their prey and for self-defence, and they contain very powerful muscles. When in the water the lobster seizes anything presented to it, and holds it so strongly that it is impossible to extricate it without breaking the claw.

All Crustaceans cast their crust annually. At first it seems wonderful how this can be accomplished. With insects, in whom it takes place only in the larves, and whose form and substance are usually adapted to it, a longitudinal fissure of the skin of a soft caterpillar, or grub, when the animal grows too big for it, we can conceive to be no difficult task : but with animals covered with a hard crust, and in whom not only the covering of the head, trunk, and abdomen is to be cast, but also that of the legs and other organs, it seems an operation infinitely more arduous. But HE who gave them this defence, instructs them also how to rid themselves of it when it grows too strait for them, and has moulded their structure accordingly.

These animals are not, like most insects, limited to an existence, terminated within the period of one revolution of the earth round the sun, but sometimes witness several ; and some are said even to live *twenty* years, and keep growing during the greater part of their life. But this would be impossible, since it is incapable of extension, unless they could give room for the expansion of their body, by occa-

* Hist. Anim. l. ii. c. 2.