

united or kept separate, according to the will or wants of the animal; and it is stated, that from them certain spiders can spin *three* kinds of silk.\* Their ordinary thread is so fine, that it would require twenty-four united to equal the thickness of that of the silkworm. These threads, fine as they are, will bear, without breaking, a weight sextuple that of the spider that spins them. They employ their web, generally, for three different purposes; in the construction of their snares, of their own habitations, and of a cocoon to contain their eggs.

Spiders were divided by the older Arachnologists, after Lister, into families according to the mode in which they entrap or seize their prey. More modern writers† on the subject have taken their respiratory organs as regulating the primary division of the Order: upon this principle, the spiders are formed into two tribes, those that have two pair of gills;‡ and those that have only one pair.§ M. Walckenaer, who has studied the Order more than any man in Europe, has not only divided the above two tribes into genera, &c., from characters taken from their form and organization; but has also considered them with respect to their habits, and under this head, divides them into four sections:

1. *Hunters*, wandering incessantly to entrap their prey.
2. *Vagrants*, watching their prey, concealed or enclosed in a nest, but often running with agility.
3. *Sedentaries*, forming a web in which they remain immovable.
4. *Swimmers*, swimming in the water to catch their prey, and there forming a web.

\* Blackwall, in Linn. Trans. xvi. 479.

† L. Du Four. Latreille.

‡ Tetrapneumones. Latr. Theraphosa, &c. Walck.

§ Dipneumones. Latr. Aranea. Walck. excluding Dysdera.