

their young when extruded from the abdomen of the mother, though appearing like eggs, are really in the state of *nymph* or *pupe*. It is remarked of this group, which is parasitic upon beasts and birds, that its internal structure is particularly accommodated to this circumstance; it is furnished with a regular matrix, consisting of a large musculo-membranous pocket, and with ovaries totally different from those of other insects; but, by their configuration and position, exhibiting a considerable resemblance to those of a woman.* The reason of this singular aberration from the gestation of other *Diptera*, which, with few exceptions, are oviparous, seems connected with their peculiar habits: in their perfect state they are usually winged, and attach themselves externally to horses, oxen, &c.; it may therefore be the means of preserving the race from extinction, that they are supported in the womb of their mother, in some inscrutable way, during their grub state, and only leave her when their next change will enable them readily to attach themselves to their destined food.

The *gad-flies*,† though they do not, like the forest flies, nourish their young in their own womb; yet their Creator instructs some of them to deposit their eggs in a situation where means are provided for their conveyance to a more capacious matrix, ministering to them a copious supply of lymph, which forms their nutriment, in the stomach and intestines of the horse; for this animal, with its own mouth, licks off the eggs, wisely attached, by this fly, to the hairs of its legs in such parts as are exposed to this action; and thus, unwittingly, itself conducts foes into its citadel: others of the same genus, undermine the skin of the ox, of the sheep, and in some countries, even of man himself. The grubs, by their action in their several stations, produce a purulent matter, which they imbibe, and which is stated by

* Latr. Crust. Arachn. et Ins. ii. 542.

† *Cæstrus*, &c.