

attention; during nearly three-fourths of the year we hear their hum, and see their motions, in our apartments, and even in the depth of winter, in sunny weather, by their myriads, dancing up and down under every hedge, they catch our attention in our walks.

Order 10.—If we next turn our attention to the *mandibulate* Order, which stands most in contrast with the *Diptera*, the Hymenoptera immediately occurs to us, in which we find a variety of forms, which seem made to imitate those of flies or *vice versa*. Thus there are flies* that resemble saw-flies; others that simulate the ichneumonidan parasites; others again that resemble wasps, bees, and humble-bees.

Though the Insects belonging to this Order are included in the mandibulate Section; for their mouth is furnished with mandibles and maxillæ: yet they do not generally use them to *masticate* their *food*, but for purposes usually connected with their sequence of instincts, as the bees in building their cells; † the wasps in scraping particles of wood from posts and rails for a similar purpose, and likewise to seize their prey; but the great instrument by which, in their perfect state, they collect their food is their *tongue*, this the bees particularly have the power of inflating, and can wipe with it both concave and convex surfaces; and with it they as it were, *lick*, but not *suck*, the honey from the blossoms, for, as Reaumur has proved, this organ acts as a *tongue* and not as a *pump*.‡ In the numerous tribes that compose this most interesting of the Orders, the tongue is lambent, and varies considerably in its structure, but in the great majority it is a flattish organ, often divided into several lobes.

Some entomological writers have bestowed upon the members of the present Order the title of *Principes*, as if

* *Aspistes*, Meig.

† See above, p. 138.

‡ *Mem. &c.* v. 322.