

sign of life ; but let her cocoon be brought within her reach, and she will seize it with desperate strength. The process by which the spider weaves its web is as remarkable as any thing in the animal kingdom ; but the description would be too prolix.

I must not leave the comparative physiology of animals without adverting to the subject of their transformation, or metamorphosis. Every animal, in the successive stages of its existence, undergoes more or less of change. It is said that, in man, the particles that compose the infant are several times entirely replaced by others before the period of old age. But some animals undergo sudden and remarkable changes. Serpents cast off their skins, and crustaceans, such as the lobster, their shells, annually. The frog is first hatched in the form of a tadpole, — or, as we more commonly say in New England, a *polliwog*, — which has the form of a fish with a large head, but without legs or fins. Gradually this creature becomes a frog, with four legs. But the most perfect example of metamorphosis is that of insects, especially the winged species. They are hatched as a caterpillar, or grub, which is called their larva state. Next they enclose themselves in a cocoon, and become torpid. This is their *pupa* or chrysalis state. From this condition they emerge into their imago or perfect state, as elegant, lively, winged insects. Such cases have been beautifully denominated *emblems of immortality*. The larva state, in which the animal is in an active, but depressed and imperfect condition, may well be likened to the present life. The torpidity and confinement of the pupa state well represents our detention in the grave ; while the imago or perfect state beautifully typifies our condition when *this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality*.