

the *haunches*, and the succeeding ones the *leg*, and the *tarsus*, and each foot is terminated by two, or sometimes three hooks. Besides these, there are other members resembling feet, which are placed in front of the head, and have affixed to them either a moveable hook, or pincers, which are employed as organs of prehension, and of offence. Through the larger branches of these a canal passes, which opens near the point, and conducts a poisonous fluid into the wounds inflicted by this formidable weapon.

In common with all articulated animals, spiders, in the progress of their growth, cast their outer skin several times, and at regular periods. In the earlier stages of their existence, although they have the general form of the mature insect, yet they have a smaller number of legs: the last pair not making their appearance till after the spider has attained a certain size. We may here trace the commencement of that system of metamorphosis, which, as we shall afterwards find, is carried to so great a length in winged insects.

Spiders are endowed with extensive powers of progressive motion, and display great activity and energy in all their movements. The long and elastic limbs on which the body is suspended, being firmly braced by their articulations, enable the muscles to act with great mechanical advantage in accelerating the progression of the body. Hence, these animals are enabled to run with great swiftness, and to spring from considerable distances on their prey; powers which were necessary to those tribes that live altogether by the chase. The greater number of species, however, as is well known, are provided with a curious apparatus for spinning threads, and for constructing webs to entangle flies and other small insects. Every species of spider weaves its web in a manner peculiar to itself: and, besides the principal web, they often construct in the neighbourhood a smaller one in the form of a cell, in which they conceal themselves, and lie in ambush for their prey. Between this cell and the principal web they extend a thread of communication, and by the vibrations into which it is thrown, on the contact of any solid body, the spider is immediately ac-