

quainted with the event, and passes quickly to the spot, by the assistance of the same thread.

Some species have the power of conveying themselves to considerable distances through the air by means of threads which they dart out, and which are borne onwards by the wind, while the spider is clinging to the end of the thread which is next to it. In this manner these spiders are often carried up to a great height in the air: and it has been supposed that during their flight they often seize upon gnats and other flies; because the mutilated remains of these insects are often seen adhering to the threads: this point, however, is still open to much doubt.

The Natural History of the spider is, in many points of view, highly interesting, not only from the great extent to which the organic development is carried, and the energy with which all the functions of animal life are performed; but also with reference to the wonderful instincts displayed in the construction of its web, in the surprise and destruction of its victims, and in the zealous guardianship of its young. It would be impossible, in so brief an outline as the one I am now tracing, to enlarge upon so fertile a topic, without being led too far from the object I have at present more particularly in view; namely, the development of organization with reference to the organs of progressive motion.

§ 4. *Crustacea.*

THE plan which Nature appears to have commenced in the construction of the Arachnida, is farther pursued in that of the *Crustacea*. The portions into which the external frame-work of the body was divided in the former, are still farther consolidated in the latter: they are composed of denser materials, and endowed with greater rigidity; thus not only offering more resistance to external forces, but also giving a firmer purchase to the muscles which are the moving powers. The limbs, as well as the whole body, are incased in tubes of solid carbonate of lime: they are articulated with