

it goes off through the pores of the body, and that these are sufficiently large to permit its exclusion.

But it is not in this instance alone that the leech differs from all other insects. It has been remarked in a former section, that the whole insect tribe had their opening into their lungs placed in their sides; and that they breathed through those apertures as other animals through the mouth. A drop of oil poured on the sides of a wasp, a bee, or a worm, would quickly suffocate them, by stopping up the passages through which they breathe; but it is otherwise with the leech, for this animal may be immersed in oil without injury; nay, it will live in it; and the only damage it will sustain is that when taken out, it will be seen to cast a fine pellucid skin, exactly of the shape of the animal, after which it is alert and vigorous as before. It appears from this, that the leech breathes through the mouth; and, in fact, it has a motion that seems to resemble the act of respiration in more perfect animals: but concerning all this we are very much in the dark.

The leech is viviparous, and produces its young, one after the other, to the number of  
forty