

when the internal orifice is more open than it should. The semen of the male enters into the matrix, where it mixes with that of the female; and as each has two kinds of fluid, the one strong and the other weak, if both furnish their strong, a male will be the result, and if their weak, a female; and if in the mixture there are more particles of the male liquor than the female, then the infant will have a greater resemblance to the father than to the mother, and so on the contrary. It might here be asked Hippocrates what would happen when the one furnished its weak semen and the other its strong? I cannot conceive what answer he could make, and that alone is sufficient to cause his opinion of two seeds in each sex to be rejected.

In this manner then, according to him, the formation of the foetus is made: the seminal fluids first mix in the matrix, where they gradually thicken by the heat of the body of the mother; the mixture receives and attracts the spirit of the heat, and when too warm part of the heat flies out, and the respiration of the mother sends a colder spirit in; thus alternatively a cold and a hot spirit enter the mixture, which give life, and cause a pellicle to grow
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