

bee, who lives on the purest parts of flowers, certainly receives more organic particles in proportion than a horse who feeds on the grosser parts of vegetables, hay, &c. The horse produces but one at one time, whereas the bee will bring forth three thousand.

Oviparous animals are in general smaller than the viviparous, and produce also more at a birth. The duration of the foetus in the matrix of viviparous animals likewise opposes their increase, nor can there be any new generation take place during gestation, or while they are suckling their young; whereas oviparous animals produce at the same time both matrix and foetuses, which they cast out of the body, and are therefore almost always in a state of reproduction; and it is well known that by preventing a hen from setting, and largely feeding, the number of her eggs will be considerably increased. If hens cease to lay when they sit, it is because they have ceased to feed; and it is the fear lest their eggs should not produce which causes them not to quit their nests but once a day, and that for a very short time, during which they take a little nutriment, but not one-tenth part of what they take at other times.