

quadrupeds, a much less waste is made by transpiration, than the cloathing of scales retains ; whereas in animals covered with hair this transpiration is more free and abundant ? and is it not partly by this superabundance of nutriment, which cannot be carried off by transpiration, that those animals multiply so abundantly, and are enabled to go so long without food ? All birds and all insects that fly are oviparous, excepting some kinds of flies which bring forth their young alive. These flies have no wings at their birth, but they shoot out and grow by degrees, and which they cannot use before they are of full growth. Scaly fish are likewise oviparous ; as are all reptiles which have no legs, such as snakes and different kinds of serpents ; they change their skins, which are composed of small scales. The viper is only a slight exception to the general rule, for it is not truly viviparous, as it produces eggs, from which the young are hatched ; it is certain this is performed in the body of the mother, who instead of casting those eggs, like other oviparous animals, she retains and hatches them in her own body. The salamander, in which eggs and young ones are found at the same time, as observed by M. de Maupertuis,