

days. Most birds come out of the egg at the end of twenty-one days ; though some, as canary birds, hatch in thirteen or fourteen days. The variety is as great here as in every thing else relative to animals. The largest animals which produce only few, are those which go the longest with young ; this still more confirms what we have already said, that the quantity of organic food is in proportion less in large than in small animals ; for it is from the superfluity of the mother's food that the foetus derives what is necessary to the growth and expansion of its parts, and since this expansion demands much more time in large than in small animals, it is a proof that the quantity of matter which contributes is not so abundant in the first as in the last.

There is, therefore, an infinite variety in animals, with respect to the time and manner of gestation, engendering, and bringing forth ; and this variety is found even in the causes of generation ; for although the general principle of production is this organic matter common to all that lives or vegetates, the manner in which the union is made, must have infinite combinations, which must all proceed from the source of new productions. My experiments