

this unfolding is performed by the external heat of incubation; but it is certain, if the egg could be confined within the body of the hen for 21 days after it was completely formed, the chicken would be produced, unless the internal heat of the hen should prove too powerful, for the degrees of heat necessary to hatch chickens are not very extended, and the least defect or excess is equally prejudicial to their unfolding. The last eggs the hen lays, containing the same as the first, proves nothing more than that the egg must acquire entire perfection before the embryo can unfold itself; and for want of the heat necessary to this unfolding, eggs may be kept a considerable time before incubation, without preventing the produce of the chickens they contain.

It appears, therefore, that the state of the embryo, when the egg is laid by the hen, is the first state which succeeds fecundation; that the form under which we see it is the first form resulting from the intimate mixture, and from the penetration of the two seminal liquors; and consequently by following, as Malpighius has done, this unfolding from hour to hour, we discover all that is possible to be known, unless we could see the two liquors mix before our eyes,