

lungs prove they have never respired ; for they sink to the bottom when put in water : whereas those of infants who have breathed always float on the top ; the foetus then does not respire in the womb, consequently it cannot form any sound by its voice ; and therefore what has been related of the groaning and crying of children before their birth may be considered as fables. After the flowing of the waters it may happen, that the air has found an entrance into the cavity of the matrix, and then the infant may begin to respire before it is brought forth. In this case it may be able to cry, as the chicken cries before the shell of the egg is broken, which it can do from there being air in the cavity which is between the external membrane and the shell. This air is found in all eggs, and is produced by the internal fermentation of matters contained in them*.

The lungs of the foetus being without any motion, have no more blood enter into them than is requisite to nourish and make them grow ; and there is another road opened for the course of its circulation. The blood in the right auricle of the heart, instead of passing
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* See La Statique des Vegetaux. Chap. vi.