

most Vertebrates. Among Articulata, the differences are no less striking, the males being often of a different shape and color, as in crabs, or having even more complete organs, as in many tribes of insects, where the males have wings, while the females are destitute of them, (Fig. 147.) Among mollusks, the females have often a wider shell.

274. Even higher distinctions than specific ones are based upon peculiarities of the sexes; for example, the whole class of Mammalia is characterized by the fact that the female is furnished with organs for nourishing her young with a peculiar liquid, the milk, secreted by herself. Again, the Marsupial, such as the opossum and kangaroo, are distinguished by the circumstance that the female has a pouch into which the young are received in their immature condition at birth.

275. That all animals are produced from eggs, (*Omne vivum ex ovo*), is an old adage in Zoölogy, which modern researches have fully confirmed. In tracing back the phases of animal life, we invariably arrive at an epoch when the incipient animal is enclosed within an egg. It is then called an *embryo*, and the period passed in this condition is called the *embryonic period*.

276. Before the various classes of the animal kingdom had been attentively studied during the embryonic period, all animals were divided into two great divisions: the *oviparous*, comprising those which lay eggs, such as birds, reptiles, fishes, insects, mollusks, &c., and the *viviparous*, which bring forth their young alive, like the mammalia, and a few from other orders, as the sharks, vipers, &c. This distinction lost much of its importance when it was shown that viviparous animals are produced from eggs, as well as the oviparous; only that their eggs, instead of being laid before the development of the embryo begins, undergo their early changes in the body of the mother. Production from