

to which, as we have observed, there is no other solution to be given than that of the fact itself. It may be insisted, it is the most complicated mode of production; yet this mode, which appears the most complicated to us, is certainly the most simple for nature, because, as we have remarked, what happens the most often, however difficult it may appear to our ideas, must in reality be the most simple; which does not prevent us from conceiving it to be complex, as we judge of it according to that knowledge which our senses and reflections can give us thereon.

The assertion of the Aristotelians, that females have no prolific fluid, must fall to the ground, if we pay attention to the resemblance of children to their mothers, of mules to the female that produces them, of mongrels and mulattos, all of which resemble more the mother than the father. If, besides these, we consider the organs of females are, like those of the males, formed so as to prepare and receive the seminal fluid, we shall be readily persuaded that such a fluid must exist, whether it resides in the spermatic vessels, the testicles, or in the matrix: or whether it issues, when provoked, by the passages of de Graaf, situated