

soned by the mixture of these two seminal liquors causes the formation of the foetus.

Hippocrates, who lived under Perdicas, a considerable time before Aristotle, established an opinion, which was adopted by Galen, and a great number of physicians who followed him; his opinion was, that the male and female had each a prolific fluid, and supposed, besides, that there were two seminal fluids in each sex, the one strong and active, the other weak and inactive.* That a mixture of the two strongest fluids produce a male child, and of the two weakest a female; so that, according to him, they each contain a male and a female seed. He supports this hypothesis by the following circumstance; that many women, who produce only girls by their first husbands, have produced boys by a second; and that men, who have had only girls by their first wives, have had boys by others. It appears to me, that if even this circumstance could be well established, it would not be necessary to give to the male and female two kinds of seminal liquor for an explanation, because it may easily be conceived, that women,

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who

* See Hippocrates, lib. de Genitura, page 129, & lib. de diæta, page 198, Lugd. Bat. 1665, vol. I.