

nearly similar to the white of an egg; it is also in this part that the eggs begin to be surrounded with this white liquor, with the membrane which occasions it, the two ligaments (*chalazæ*) which passes over the white, and connects it with the yolk and shell, which are formed in a very short time before they are laid. These ligaments, according to Fabricius, is the part of the egg fecundated by the seminal spirit of the male; and it is here where the foetus first begins to form. The egg is not only the true matrix, that is to say, the place of the formation of the chick, but it is from the egg all generation depends. The egg produces it as the agent: it supplies both the matter and the organs; the ligaments are the substance of formation; the white and the yolk are the nutriment, and the seminal spirit of the male is the efficient cause. This spirit communicates to the ligaments at first an alterative faculty, afterwards a formative, and lastly the power of augmentation, &c.

These observations of Fabricius have not given us a very clear explication of generation. Nearly at the same time as this anatomist was employed in these researches, towards the middle of the sixteenth century, the famous
Aldrovandus