

Aldrovandus* also made observations on eggs; but as Harvey judiciously observes, he followed Aristotle much closer than experiment. The descriptions he gives of the chicken in the egg are not exact. Volcher Coiter, one of his scholars, succeeded much better in his enquiries; and Parisanus, a physician of Venice, having also laboured on this subject, they have each given a description of the chicken in the egg, which Harvey prefers to any other.

This famous anatomist, to whom we are indebted for the discovery of the circulation of the blood, has composed a very extensive treatise on generation; he lived towards the middle of the last century, and was physician to Charles I. of England. As he was obliged to follow this unfortunate prince in his misfortunes, he lost what he had written on the generation of insects among other papers, and he composed what he has left us on the generation of birds and quadrupeds from his memory. I shall concisely relate his observations, his experiments, and his system.

Harvey asserts that man and every animal proceed from an egg; that the first produce of conception in viviparous animals is a kind of

* See his Ornithology.