

an egg, and that the only difference between viviparous and oviparous is, that the foetus of the first take their origin, acquire their growth, and arrive at their entire expansion in the matrix; whereas the foetus of oviparous animals begins to exist in the body of the mother, where they are merely as eggs, and it is only after they have quitted the body of the mother that they really become foetuses; and we must remark, says he, that in oviparous animals, some hold their eggs within themselves till they are perfect, as birds, serpents and oviparous quadrupeds; others lay their eggs before they are perfect, as fish, crustaceous, and testaceous animals. The eggs which these animals deposit are only the rudiments of real eggs, they afterwards acquire bulk and membranes, and attract nourishment from the matter which surrounds them. It is the same, adds he, with insects, for example, and caterpillars, which only seem imperfect eggs, which seek their nutriment, and at the end of a certain time arrive to the state of chrysalis, which is a perfect egg. There is another difference in oviparous animals: for fowls and other birds have eggs of different sizes, whereas fish, frogs, &c. lay them before they are perfect,