

Generation is the work of the matrix, in which no seed of the male ever enters; the matrix conceives by a kind of contagion, which the male liquor communicates to it, nearly as the magnet communicates its magnetic virtue to steel. This male contagion not only acts upon the matrix but over all the female body, which is wholly fecundated, although the matrix only has the faculty of conception, as the brain has the sole faculty of conceiving ideas. The ideas conceived by the brain, are like the images of the objects transmitted by the senses; and the fœtus, which may be considered as the idea of the matrix, is like that which produces it. This is the reason that a child has a resemblance to its father, &c.

I shall not follow this anatomist any farther; what I have mentioned is sufficient to judge of his system; but we have some remarks to make on his observations. He has given them in a manner most likely to impose; seems to have often repeated his experiments, and to have taken every necessary precaution to avoid deception; from which it might be imagined he had seen all he writes upon, and observed them with the greatest accuracy. Nevertheless, I perceive both uncertainty and obscurity