

any communication with the male. To pretend that the foetus is pre-existing in the eggs, and that these eggs are contained, *ad infinitum*, within each other, is nearly the same as to pretend that the foetus is pre-existing in the matrix, and that the matrix of the first female inclosed all that ever were or will be produced.

Anatomists have taken the word *egg* in several acceptations and meanings. When Harvey took for his motto, *Omnia ex ovo*, he understood by the word *egg*, as applied to viviparous animals, the membrane which includes the foetus and all its appendages: he thought, he perceived this egg, or membrane, form immediately after the copulation of the male and the female. But this egg does not proceed from the ovium of the female; and he has even maintained, that he did not remark the least alteration in this testicle, &c. We perceive there is here nothing like what is commonly understood by the word *egg* unless the figure of the bag may be supposed to have some resemblance thereto. Harvey, who dissected so many viviparous females, did not, he says, ever perceive any alteration in the ovaria; he looked on them even as small glands, perfectly useless to generation,* al-

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* See Harvey Exercit. 64 and 65.