

seasons, and in general there is a swelling and an extension of the genital members in all species, which, although it be external, must be regarded as a new production necessarily preceding generation.

In the body of every animal, male or female, new productions are formed which precede generation; and when there is no real production there is always a swelling, and considerable extension in some of the parts. There are species in which this new production is not only manifest, but even the whole body seems to be renewed before generation can be performed; as is the case with insects whose various metamorphoses seem to be only for the purpose of generating; for the growth of the animal is completed before it is transformed. It ceases from taking nutriment, has no organs for generation, no means of converting the nutritive particles, of which they abound, into eggs or seminal liquor, and therefore this superfluity unites and moulds itself at first into a form something like that of the original. The caterpillar becomes a butterfly, because, for these reasons, it is unable to produce small organized beings like itself; the organic particles, always active, take another form, by uniting,

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