

stance of this liquor, may penetrate the membranes of the matrix ; for the seminal liquor being, as we have proved, almost all composed of organic molecules, which are in great motion, and extremely minute, they may pass across the coat of the closest membranes, and penetrate those of the matrix with the greatest facility.

What proves that the active part of this liquor may not only pass through the pores of the matrix, but even penetrate its substance, is the sudden change that immediately takes place after conception. The menses are suppressed, the matrix becomes softer, swells, and appears inflamed. All these alterations can only happen by the action of an external cause ; by the penetration of some part of the seminal liquor into the substance even of the matrix. This penetration not only operates on the external surface of the matrix, but on all the other parts of which this viscera is composed, like that penetration by which nutrition and expansion is produced.

We shall be easily persuaded that it is so, when we consider that the matrix, during the time of gestation, not only augments in bulk but also in quantity of matter, and that it has