

mine the result of the simple unfolding of a folded form, in which, as in a piece of folded paper, there is but one change of position between the parts, without any augmentation or diminution of the bulk or mass of the matter, how is it possible for us to judge of the complex unfolding of the body of an animal, in which not only the relative position of the parts, but also their mass of matter, undergoes considerable changes? We cannot, therefore, reason upon this subject, but by drawing some inductions from the examination of the things at the different periods of their unfolding, and by assisting ourselves with the observations that we have had the opportunity to make.

It is true we see the chick in the egg before incubation; it floats in a transparent liquor, contained in a small purse, formed by a very fine membrane in the centre of the cicatrice; but this chick is then only a particle of inanimate matter, in which we cannot discern any organization, nor any determined figure. We judge by the external form that one of the extremities is the head, and the rest to be the spine of the back. It appears that this is the first product of fecundation resulting from the mixture of the seed of the male and female; nevertheless,