

nevertheless, before asserting this as a fact, there are many things should be considered. When the hen has cohabited with the cock for a few days, and afterwards separated from him, the eggs she produces for a month after separation are as fertile as those she produced during the time of cohabitation with the male, and unfold at the same time; they only require twenty-one days sitting, and the embryo of the one will be as forward and as completely formed as that of the other. From hence we might think, that this form, under which the chick at first appears to us in the egg, does not immediately proceed from a mixture of the two liquors, but that it existed in other forms during the time the egg remained in the body of the mother; for the embryo in the form we see it before incubation, requires only heat to unfold and bring it forth. Now, if it had this form twenty days, or a month before, when the egg was first fecundated, why was it not hatched by the internal heat of the hen? and why is not the chicken perfectly formed in those eggs which are fecundated twenty-one days before the hen lays them?

This difficulty is not so great as it appears; for we must conceive, that in the time of the