

written thereon. It is by collecting all their particular observations, and by comparing their remarks and their descriptions, that we have made the following abridged history of the human foetus.

There is a great appearance that, immediately after the mixture of the two seminal liquors, the whole materials of generation exist in the matrix under the form of a globe; since we know, by anatomists, that three or four days after conception there is a small oval ball in the matrix, this ball is formed by an extremely fine membrane, which incloses a limpid liquor like the white of an egg. We can then perceive some small united fibres in this liquor, which are the first outlines of the foetus. A net-work of fine fibres collects on the surface of the ball, which extends from one of the extremities to the middle. These are the first vestiges of the placenta.

Seven days after conception we may distinguish, by the naked eye, the first lineaments of the foetus, as yet unformed; being only a mass of transparent jelly, which has acquired some small degree of solidity; the head and trunk are easily discernible, because this mass is of an oblong form, and the trunk is more delicate