

ceives by its mouth. Some naturalists pretend to have observed this liquor in the stomach, and to have seen some fœtuses to which the umbilical cord was entirely wanting, and others who had but a very small portion, which did not at all adhere to the placenta; but in this case might not the liquor have entered into the body of the fœtus by the small portion of the umbilical cord, or by the umbilical vessel itself? besides, to these observations we may oppose others. Some fœtuses have been found whose lips were not separated, and others without any opening in the œsophagus. To conciliate these circumstances, some anatomists have thought that the aliments passed into the fœtus partly by the umbilical cord, and partly by the mouth: none of these opinions appear to have any foundation. It is not the question to examine the growth of the fœtus alone, and to seek from whence and by what it draws its nutriment, but how the growth of the whole is made; for the placenta, liquor, and membranes increase in size as well as in the fœtus; and consequently the instruments and canals employed to receive or carry this nutriment to the fœtus, have a kind of life themselves. The expansion of the placenta and membranes