

weight and size of the twins of eight months are more considerable than the weight and size of a single child of nine. Besides, it often happens that a child born at nine months is smaller than the fœtus of eight months, although it continues in the womb.

Galen pretends, that the child remains in the matrix till it is able to receive its food by the mouth, and that it only forces its escape from the need of nutriment. Others have said, that the fœtus always receives its nourishment by the mouth from the liquor of the amnios; but which becomes at length so contaminated, by the transpiration and urine of the fœtus, that it becomes disgustful, and obliges the fœtus to use every exertion to quit its confinement. These reasons do not appear better than the first; for it would from thence follow, that the weakest and smallest fœtuses would remain longer in the womb than the strongest and largest, which never happens; besides, it is not food that the fœtus seeks immediately after it is born, for it can stay some time without it; on the contrary, it seems most desirous to disembar-rass itself from the nutriment it took when in the womb of its mother, and to return the meconium. Other anatomists have supposed that  
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