

The *foetus* generally comes into the world during the tenth revolution. When it is born at the eighth or ninth it lives, and these deliveries are not looked upon as miscarriages, because the child, although not so perfectly formed, is still sufficiently so for the purpose of life. It has been pretended, that examples have been seen of children born at the seventh and even at the sixth revolution, that is, at five or six months, which have lived. There is, therefore, no difference between a birth and a miscarriage but what is relative to the living powers of the infant. In general the number of miscarriages in the first, second, and third months are very considerable for the reasons we have given; and the number of deliveries of the seventh and eighth months are also very great, in comparison with the miscarriages of the fourth, fifth, and sixth months, because in this middle period the product of generation has received more solidity and strength, and having resisted the action of the four first periodical revolutions, a more violent force than the preceding is required to destroy it. The same reason subsists, with additional force, for the fifth and sixth months. But the *foetus*, which till then is weak, and can act only by its own feeble