

and expansion of every thing which lives or vegetates. This matter cannot perform them but by assimilating itself to each part of the animal or vegetable, and by intimately penetrating the texture and form of these parts, which I have called the *internal mould*. When this nutritive matter is more abundant than is necessary to nourish and expand the animal or vegetable, it is sent back from every part of the body, and deposited in one or more reservoirs, in the form of a liquor; this liquor contains all the molecules analogous to all parts of the body; and consequently all that is necessary for the reproduction of a young being, perfectly resembling the first. Commonly this nutritive matter does not become superabundant, in most kinds of animals, till they have acquired the greatest part of their growth; and it is for this reason that animals are not in a state of engendering before that time.

When this nutritive and productive matter, which is universally spread abroad, has passed through the internal mould of an animal or vegetable, and has found a proper matrix, it produces an animal or vegetable, of the same kind; but when it does not meet with a proper matrix, it produces organized beings different
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