

Without quitting our subject we can give other examples, where the intentions we so vainly ascribe to Nature are evidently contradicted. It is said the phalanges are formed merely to produce fingers or toes, yet in the hog they are useless, since they do not form toes which the animal can make any advantage of ; and in cloven-footed animals there are small bones which do not form phalanges.\* If then it was the design of Nature to produce toes, it is evident that in the hog she has not more than half executed her purpose, and in the others she has scarcely began it.

The allantois is a membrane which is found in the foetus of the sow, mare, cow, and many other animals. This membrane adheres to the bladder of the foetus, and is said to be placed there for the purpose of receiving its urine while it is in the belly of the mother ; and at the instant of birth, indeed, an inconsiderable quantity of liquor is found in the allantois ; in the cow, where perhaps it is most abundant, it never amounts to more than a few pints ; and the extent of the membrane is so great, there is not any proportion between that and the liquor. This membrane, when filled with air, forms a kind of double packet, in the shape of a crescent, thirteen or fourteen inches long, and from  
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\* M. Daubenton was the first who made this discovery.