

CHAPTER TENTH.

EMBRYOLOGY.

SECTION I

OF THE EGG.

271. THE functions of vegetative life, of which we have treated in the preceding chapters, namely, digestion, circulation, respiration, and secretion, have for their end the preservation of the individual. We have now to treat of the functions that serve for the perpetuation of the species, namely, those of reproduction, (200.)

272. It has been generally admitted that animals as well as plants are the offspring of individuals of the same kind; and *vice versa*, that none of them can give birth to individuals differing from themselves; but recent investigations have modified to a considerable extent this view, as we shall see hereafter.

273. Reproduction in animals is almost universally accomplished by the association of individuals of two kinds, *males* and *females*, living commonly in pairs or in flocks, each of them characterized by peculiarities of structure and external appearance. As this distinction prevails throughout the animal kingdom, it is always necessary, if we would obtain a correct and complete idea of a species, to take into account the peculiarities of both sexes. Every one is familiar with the differences between the cock and the hen, the lion and the lioness, &c. Less prominent peculiarities are observed in