

egg, about the sixtieth day after it is laid, (Fig. 123,) but its development is still incomplete. The outlines are yet too indistinct to indicate the genus and the species to which the fish be-

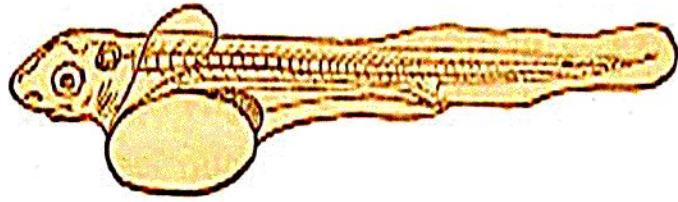


Fig. 123.

longs; at most we distinguish its order only. The opercula or gill-covers are not formed; the teeth are wanting; the fins have as yet no rays; the mouth is underneath, and it is some time before it assumes its final position at the most projecting point of the head. The remainder of the yolk is suspended from the belly, in the form of a large bladder, but it daily diminishes in size, until it is at length completely taken into the animal, (304.) The duration of these metamorphoses varies extremely in different fishes; some accomplish it in the course of a few days, while in others, months are required.

315 *a*. In frogs and all the naked reptiles, the development is very similar to that of fishes. It is somewhat different in the scaly reptiles, (snakes, lizards, and turtles,) which have peculiar membranes surrounding and protecting the embryo during its growth. From one of these envelopes, the allantois, (Fig. 125, *a*,) is derived their common name of *Allantoïdian Vertebrates*, in opposition to the naked reptiles and fishes, which are called *Anallantoïdian*.

315 *b*. The Allantoïdian Vertebrates differ from each other in several essential peculiarities. Among Birds, as well as in the scaly

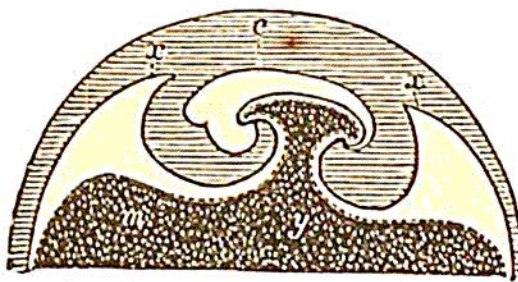


Fig. 124.



Fig. 125.

reptiles, we find at a certain epoch, when the embryo is already dis-