

to assign to them a spontaneous origin altogether incompatible with what we know of organic development. Their rapid appearance is not at all astonishing, when we reflect that some mushrooms attain a considerable size in a few hours, but yet pass through all the phases of regular growth; and, indeed, since we have ascertained the different modes of generation among the lower animals, no substantial difficulties to the axiom "*omne vivum ex ovo*," (275,) any longer exist.