

tration. The young White-fish, as we have seen, (315,) is far from having acquired its complete development when born. The vertical fins are not yet separate; the mouth has not yet its proper position; the yolk has not yet retreated within the cavity of the body, but hangs below the chest in the form of a large bag. Much, therefore, remains to be changed before its development is complete. But the fact that it has been born does not prevent its future evolution, which goes on without interruption.

389. Similar inferences may be drawn from the development of the chicken. The only difference is, that the young chicken is born in a more mature state, the most important transformations having taken place during the embryonic period, while those to be undergone after birth are less considerable, though they complete the process begun in the embryo. Thus we see it, shortly after birth, completely changing its covering, and clothed with feathers instead of down; still later its crest appears, and its spurs begin to be developed.

390. In certain Mammals, known under the name of Marsupials, (the Opossum and Kangaroo,) the link between the transformations which take place before birth, and those that occur at a later period, is especially remarkable. These animals are brought into the world so weak and undeveloped that they have to undergo a second gestation, in a pouch with which the mother is furnished, and in which the young remain, each one fixed to a teat, until they are entirely developed. Even those animals which are born nearest to the complete state, undergo, nevertheless, embryonic transformations. Ruminants acquire their horns; and the lion his mane. Most mammals, at birth, are destitute of teeth, and incapable of using their limbs; and all are dependent on the mother and the milk secreted by her, until the stomach is capable of digesting other aliments.