

OUR EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT

liarities in the form of the placenta—namely, by the possession of what is called the *decidua reflexa*, and by a special formation of the umbilical chord which unites the *decidua* to the fœtus. It was supposed that the rest of the placentals, including the apes, were without these special embryonic structures. The *funiculus umbilicalis* is a smooth, cylindrical cord, from sixteen to twenty-three inches long, and as thick as the little finger. It forms the connecting link between the fœtus and the maternal placenta, since it conducts the nutritive vessels from the body of the fœtus to the placenta; it comprises, besides, the pedicle of the allantois and the yelk-sac. The yelk-sac in the human case forms the greater portion of the germinal vesicle during the third week of gestation; but it shrivels up afterwards so that it was formerly entirely missed in the mature fœtus. Yet it remains all the time in a rudimentary condition, and may be detected even after birth as the little umbilical vesicle. Moreover, even the vesicular structure of the allantois disappears at an early stage in the human case; with a deflection of the amnion, it gives rise to the pedicle. We cannot enter here into a discussion of the complicated anatomical and embryological relations of these structures. I have described and illustrated them in my *Anthropogeny* (twenty-third chapter).

The opponents of evolution still appealed to these “special features” of human embryology, which were supposed to distinguish man from all the other mammals, even so late as ten years ago. But in 1890 Emil Selenka proved that the same features are found in the anthropoid apes, especially in the orang (*satyrus*), while the lower apes are without them. Thus Huxley’s pithecometra thesis was substantiated once more: “The