We say *perhaps*, because it is not improbable that fish may suffer some slight change after their exclusion from the egg. This change is known to take place in the frog tribe, and many of the lizard kind, which are produced from the egg in an imperfect form. The tadpole, or young frog, with its enormous head and slender tail is well known; a species of the lizard also, which is excluded from the shell without legs, only acquires them by degrees, and it does not put off its serpent form till after some time.

It is a general rule in nature, that the larger the animals are, the longer they continue before exclusion: and this holds good with respect to the pea or spawn of the spinous fish. To assign a cause for this well known truth is not easy: placing probability in the stead of certainty, we might say, that as all large bodies take a longer time to grow hot than small ones, so the larger the egg, the larger influence of vital warmth it requires to reach through all its recesses, and to unfold the dormant springs that wait to be put in motion.

Duhamel remarks to us, that fish are a considerable time in coming to their full growth; and that they are a long time destroyed before it