

into the pulmonary artery, and returning, after having ran through the lungs into the left auricle by the pulmonary vein, passes immediately into the left by an opening, called the *foramen ovale*, which is in the partition of the heart between the two auricles. It enters afterwards into the aorta, which distributes it by its ramifications, at going out of which the venous branches receive it, and bring it back to the heart by uniting all in the *vena cava*, which terminates at the right auricle of the heart. The blood which this auricle contains, instead of passing entirely by the *foramen ovale*, may escape in part into the pulmonary and the aorta by an arterial canal, which goes immediately from the one to the other. It is by these roads that the blood of the foetus circulates without entering into the lungs, as it enters into those of children, adults, and every animal which breathes.

It has been thought that the blood of the mother passes into the body of the foetus, by means of the placenta and umbilical cord. It was supposed that the sanguinary vessels of the matrix opened into the vacuities, and those of the placenta into the nipples, and that they joined one to the other; but experience is quite