

EMBRYOLOGY OF THE TURTLE.

CHAPTER FIRST.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE EGG, FROM ITS FIRST APPEARANCE TO THE FORMATION OF THE EMBRYO.

SECTION I.

THE ORIGIN OF THE EGG.

ON account of the hitherto unknown peculiarities which the earlier stages of growth of the Turtle's egg exhibit, it is necessary to say a few words in reference to the caution which was taken to make sure that these strange features are perfectly normal. A young animal was resorted to, on account of the greater abundance of the smallest sized eggs, and also because the ovary is less opaque, than in the adult. Those of the latter age were nevertheless consulted also, for comparison, and in them it was ascertained that the process of growth is the same as with the younger animals.

In order not to distort the eggs by pressure, tearing, or pulling, the ovary was cut out entire by severing its peduncular attachment, thus avoiding the necessity of touching the eggs. To prevent drying, and also that it might be kept in a natural medium, the ovary was laid in the serum taken from the cavity of the body, and brought under the microscope in a watch-glass. If, however, the serum is left uncovered for a longer time, it evaporates and changes its