outside, (Fig. 77, *o*,) or inside, at the bottom of the cavity of the body. Some insects, such as the gad-flies, deposit their eggs on other animals. Finally, many abandon their eggs to the elements, taking no further care of them after they have been laid; such is the case with most fishes, some insects, and many mollusks. As a general rule, it may be said that animals take the more care of their eggs and brood as they occupy a higher rank in their respective classes.

284. The development of the embryo does not always take place immediately after the egg is laid. A considerable time, even, may elapse before it commences. Thus, the first eggs laid by the hen do not begin to develop until the whole number which is to constitute the brood is deposited. The eggs of most butterflies, and of insects in general, are laid in autumn, in temperate climates, and remain unchanged until the following spring. During this time, the principle of life in the egg is not extinct, but is simply inactive, or in a latent state. This tenacity of life is displayed in a still more striking manner in plants. The seeds, which are equivalent to eggs, preserve for years, and even for ages their power to germinate. Thus, there are some well-authenticated cases in which wheat taken from the ancient catacombs of Egypt has been made to sprout and grow.

285. A certain degree of warmth is requisite for the hatching of eggs. Those of birds, especially, require to be submitted, for a certain length of time, to a uniform temperature, corresponding to the natural heat of the future chicken, which is naturally supplied by the body of the parent. In other words, *incubation* is necessary for their growth. Incubation, however, is not a purely vital phenomenon, but may be easily imitated artificially. Some birds of warm climates dispense with this task; for example, the ostrich often contents herself with depositing her eggs in the sand of the desert, leaving them to be hatched by the sun. In