

interest owing to the astonishing progress of modern geology and anthropology—are unknown to the most of them. To speak of the human egg and its development, they consider either a ridiculous myth or a vulgar piece of immodesty. And yet this subject reveals to us a series of actually recognized facts, which cannot be surpassed in general interest or high importance by any other in the wide domain of human knowledge.

It is true these facts are not calculated to excite approval among persons who assume a complete distinction between man and the rest of nature, and who will not acknowledge the animal origin of the human race. That origin must be a very unpleasant truth to members of the ruling and privileged castes in those nations among which there exists an hereditary division of social classes, in consequence of false ideas about the laws of inheritance. It is well known that, even in our day, in many civilized countries the idea of hereditary grades of rank goes so far that, for example, the aristocracy imagine themselves to be of a nature totally different from that of ordinary citizens, and nobles who commit a disgraceful offence are punished by being expelled from the caste of nobles, and thrust down among the pariahs of "vulgar citizens." What are these nobles to think of the blue blood in their privileged veins, when they learn that all human embryos, those of nobles as well as commoners, are scarcely distinguishable from the tailed embryos of dogs and other mammals during the first two months of development?

As the object of these pages is solely to further the general knowledge of natural truths, and to spread, in wider circles, a natural conception of the relations of man to the