

[Galien. Des lieux affectés - suite]

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previous condition. [To find out] whether this inflation should only be attributed to one of these structures or rather to both, let us proceed at once with the following consideration. Nature fashioned and perfected the parts of the body without instruction so that they can perform their proper function. I once performed an important experiment by raising a young goat (K 443) which had never seen its mother. I used to dissect pregnant goats, because such investigation had been undertaken by the anatomists concerning the formation of the fetus.

When I found a suitable fetus, I removed it from the uterus as I was accustomed to doing. I took it before it could see its mother, brought it into the house and put it down among many containers, one filled with wine, others with oil, honey, milk or some other fluid; not a few were loaded with the fruits of the fields as well as with those of fruit trees. I saw that this premature animal walked from the start with its feet as if it had learned that it had feet for walking; secondly, it shook off the moisture which covered it in the uterus; thirdly, it scratched its ribs with one foot. Then we saw that it sniffed at each one of the things laid out in the house. After it had smelled all of them, it drank the milk. At this moment we all exclaimed loudly, since we recognized now what *Hippocrates* had described:

'The nature of the animals does not result from learning.'⁴²

When we further nursed the kid we observed that it consumed later not only milk (K 444) but other food which we had put down for it. Since the day when the fetus had been removed from the uterus was near the time of the spring equinox, two months later I obtained soft shoots of shrubs and leaves. It again smelled everything, but refused some food instantly, whereas it considered other food worthwhile tasting. After it had tasted these, it turned to the food to which adult goats are accustomed. But this is probably only of minor importance, while the following story is very remarkable. After it had swallowed the leaves and the soft shoots, it began to drink; and a short time later it started ruminating. When the people saw this they again loudly voiced their astonishment over the natural faculties of animals. It was surprising enough that the hungry animal consumed the food with its mouth and teeth. But that it regurgitated into the mouth the food that had been swallowed before, that it softened and kneaded it for a long time and swallowed it again not in the same cavity of the stomach but into another one, that seemed to us most astounding. Although most people notice such feats of nature, they admire only strange sights (K 445).

Therefore, is it not amazing that physicians who have a great knowledge of anatomy do still seek to learn by which muscle a joint is extended, for instance the hip joint; by which it is bent; which muscle abducts it to either side in a slant, and which muscles rotate it to each side, whereas the kid instantly per-

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