

V. Further development of the female genitalia.

§. 40.

The oviduct is not derived from the excretory duct of the Wolffian body (mesonephros), but it is clearly observed next to the excretory duct as a fairly thick, initially blind-ending at the anterior end, later wide open tube, which runs along the outer side of the Wolffian body and reaches with its soon clearly recognizable funnel higher than this organ, but has no connection with it at all.

These organs appear as white cylinders first in their entire length on both sides; they do not grow from the posterior to anterior end, but are present in their entire length from the very beginning; Nor do they arise by rolling up as a leaf, as Albert Meckel had thought, but they are solid in the beginning, before gradually hollowed out in their interior into tubes, in the same way the opening of the funnel into the abdominal cavity arises.

Herr von Baer *) described the development of the oviduct very correctly and probably most accurately by adding that when they first appear they correspond to the tubes leading from the abdominal cavity of several fish into the genital opening. However, Baer believes that also the male vas deferens is formed from such ducts. I found these cylinders or tubes only in female embryos next to the excretory ducts of the Wolffian bodies.

§. 41.

In all birds, initially two oviducts develop, both of which, separated from posterior to anterior, reach above the Wolffian bodies, sizable tubes, which are immediately recognizable, and which soon have a sloped opening at the top.

Fig. 7. Table VI. represents organs from a female fetus, from an age at which there are still two oviducts in the anlage.

*) a. a. O. p. 79.

- a. Kidneys.
- b. Wolffian body.
- c. Ovaries.
- d. Adrenals.
- e. Ureter.
- f. Excretory ducts of the Wolffian body.
- g. Oviduct.

§. 42.

In most birds, as the right ovary diminishes and atrophies to disappear altogether, the right oviduct also gradually is lost in the fetus, being absorbed from the anterior end and appeared shorter and shorter. See fig. 8. Tab. II.

- a. Kidneys.
- b. Wolffian body.
- c. Right smaller, left larger ovary.
- d. Adrenal glands.
- e. Ureter.
- f. Excretory ducts of the Wolffian body.
- g. Right shorter, left longer oviduct with its abdominal opening, the funnel (infundibulum).

This relationship was first discovered by Rathke and depicted by beautiful illustrations until the disappearance of the right oviduct.

§. 43.

The Wolffian bodies disappear much earlier in females compared to males; they disappear except for a small remainder at the time of hatching, while in males a sizable

part remains that appears wrongly as the epididymis long after hatching. The Wolffian bodies of both the right and left side are not involved in the various metamorphoses of the right and left ovaries. Although the right Wolffian body becomes somewhat smaller earlier than the left, it is by far not as much as the right ovary becomes smaller at its upper surface. At a

time, when the right ovary is recognizable only as a small trace, the right Wolffian body is hardly smaller than the left.