argument. Because the female semen is much less in amount than the male. I said this earlier.[1] It was not possible, therefore, to make the allantoic 6
membrane both broad and long; but it is necessarily long, inasmuch as it is fitted to both horns of the uterus; therefore with good reason and of necessity it became narrow. Since it was of this description, and thin besides, 7
nature at the beginning of the pregnancy extended around the semen on the outside the broad and thick membrane that was to receive the vaporous efflux, since the semen was going to give off vapor because of its heat.

None of the other membranes had to be generated in the first (few) 8
days, and in fact the substance of the semen was not sufficient for the creation of all of them; but as time advanced the semen was presently a fetus, and as it was nourished it grew, and it was at its largest when the need arose for the heart to be walled off from the liver and to be outwardly encircled, apart by itself, by its own guard, and for the peritoneum to be stretched around the stomach, and the parietal pleura to line the thorax. At that time it was necessary also for the brain to be covered with two 9
meninges, and the spinal cord with these and a third as well, and for the entire fetus to have its outer circumference wholly membranous, that this might be for it a natural protection against any harm that might arise from the residues that the amnion was going to hold, and that it might subsequently become skin, when a fleshy substance had been added to it. Nature 10
used for all of these the viscous quality of the semen; but whatever was thicker in it and more earthy and less ductile it deposited in the region of the bones. For it was already fashioning the whole embryo, being never idle 11
in any part.

And now the third period of gestation has come. After nature has 12
made outlines of all +the organs and the+ substance of the semen +is used up+[1], the time has come for nature to articulate the organs precisely and to bring all the parts to completion. Thus it caused flesh to grow on and 13
around all the bones, and at the same time, sucking the fattest part out of them, it made them earthy and brittle and completely without fat; and causing the viscous matter that it drew from them in each case to grow out, it made at the ends of the bones ligaments that bind them to each other, and along their entire length it placed around them on all sides thin membranes, called periosteal, on which it caused flesh to grow. And for the 14
creation of bones it used most of all the power of heat, cooking them all and drying them. This was better for them, as they would be hard and the fat 15

[1] +the organs and the+ *and* +is used up+: see the app. crit.