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INFANT CANNIBALISM AMONG ANIMALS.

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In a paper which I read to the Royal Society (Sect. IV) in May last I dealt with the two series of phenomena grouped under the somewhat forbidding titles, polyembryony and pædophagy. They may be regarded as the two opposite extremes of embryonic evolution and the survival of the fittest. In the former (polyembryony) we find that a few eggs give origin to an excessive number of young, while, in the latter, very few young result from a large number of eggs. Biologists have generally accepted the late Dr. W. B. Carpenter's definition of an individual animal as the total product of a single ovum, but our ideas of the potentialities of the egg will require revision with the foregoing phenomena before us, and in my Royal Society paper I ventured on some suggestions as to the significance of recent observations, very curious ones, made by certain biologists, Dr. Gilchrist, Dr. Sylvestri, Marchal, and others, which I intend to publish with plates ere long, but in the present brief article I shall deal only with pædophagy, avoiding technical terms as far as possible.

Fifty years ago Dr. Carpenter, one of the profoundest and most philosophical physiologists and morphologists of the 19th century, discovered that, from the numerous eggs (500 or 600 at least being produced by one parent each season), of that common sea-shore mollusk, the dog whelk (*Purpura lapillus*), not more than thirteen to twenty embryos finally emerged into the open water. To quote the succinct description of Carl Claus, "The Prosobranchs enclose their ova in capsules attached...to each other or to foreign substances. Each nidamental capsule of the group shows an aperture, and contains a certain number of vitelline globes or eggs, floating in clear jelly-like albumen. Only a portion of these develop into embryos. One only may,