

nothing whatever remaining. Instead, however, of a process of *desiccation*, as in mummification, we have here one of *increase of moisture*, or true *post-mortem* œdema and hydrops. The œdema is most apparent over the cranium, hands, feet, abdomen, and sternum. The cranial sutures are separated, the joints are disarticulated, and the periosteum has become detached from the long bones. The vessels are filled with dark blood. The serous cavities are distended with bloody serum. The brain is a greyish pulp. Fat crystals are found in the tissues. The accumulation of fat is sometimes so abundant that the term *fatty degeneration* is often applicable to this condition. In reference to embryos which dissolve in the ovum-sac *outside of the uterus* in a few hours, I would say that the fact bears no relation whatever to the subject of missed abortion. That the condition is simply the result of putrid decomposition attacking an embryo which had just ended its physiological state, and was suspended in an albuminous fluid exposed to atmospheric air; and that it is identical with that condition met in the egg of the common fowl after a like long exposure, and which, in common parlance, we are wont to call a "rotten egg."

A condition allied to missed abortion, but differing from it in some respects, is one called MISSED LABOR. It resembles it because there is an arrest of pregnancy (death of the foetus). But instead of this arrest occurring in the early months, it occurs at, or close to, the normal time of expected delivery. The uterus makes an effort at expelling its contents, but fails; probably the amniotic fluid escapes, and the uterus carries the dead foetus past the normal term of gestation to a period varying from a few weeks to months, or even years, if the patient survive so long.

Another condition remotely allied to the subject I might here mention in a passing way is that of PROTRACTED PREGNANCY, by which we mean pregnancy *without* interruption is carried beyond the normal period of gestation. Many authorities do not believe in the existence of such a condition. Dr. Matthews Duncan, however, gives an interesting case of protracted pregnancy and missed labor occurring in the same patient and from