

usually transverse or oblique. It may extend upward from its point of origin, so as to involve the upper segment, or even the fundus, or as far transversely as almost to sever the upper from the lower segment. The rent may extend through the mucous and muscular coats alone—"incomplete rupture"—or it may penetrate all the coats into the peritoneal cavity "incomplete rupture."

Clinical history.—In cases due to other causes than obstructed labor, there may be no premonitory symptoms, rupture occurring suddenly and without warning. When obstruction exists there will be a history of labor beginning naturally, of the rupture of the membranes and escape of the liquor amnii, but the solid contents of the uterine cavity cannot, from one or other of the causes enumerated, engage in the superior strait. The pains become more vigorous and frequent, and the woman's suffering becomes extreme. The upper uterine segment becomes denser as the pains continue, while the lower segment becomes thinner, and more and more distended. The changes in the density of the two segments are further pointed out by the gradual ascent of the ring of Bandl, until it may reach to, or even above, the level of the umbilicus.

With the occurrence of rupture six typical symptoms occur:—
A sudden, sharp, excruciating, lancinating pain, sometimes accompanied by a peculiar noise, as if something had given away.

The uterine contractions cease.

Blood flows more or less freely from the vagina.

Symptoms of shock and collapse, indicated by pallor, frequent and feeble pulse, cold extremities, fainting, hurried respiration, etc.

On vaginal examination, the presenting part of the child will be found to have receded, owing to its partial or complete escape into the abdominal cavity.

Abdominal palpation reveals two distinct tumors, one the rounded off contracted uterus, and the other the irregular shaped foetus, if the escape has been complete. A loop of the intestine may prolapse through the rent in the uterus, and found during vaginal examination.

If rupture is not complete it will be readily seen that some