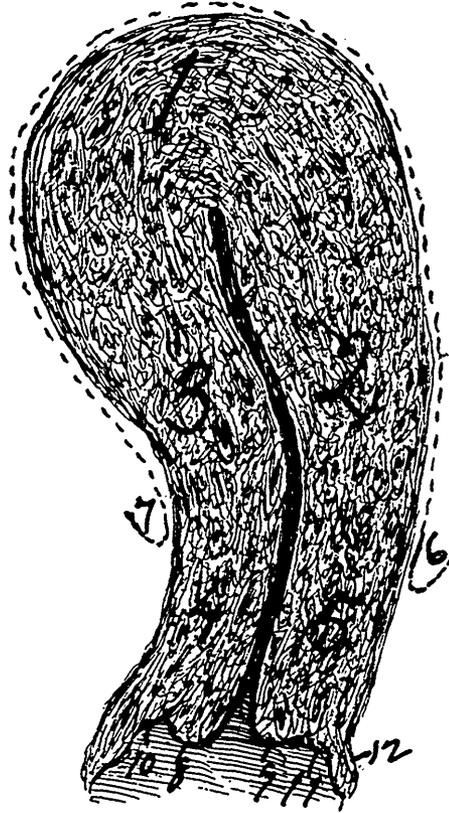


is considered the central, essential, sexual organ; chief organ of the tractus genitalis. This is a mistake, as the ovary (ovulation and internal secretion) is the primary essential sexual organ, while the uterus and oviducts are the secondary sexual organs, whose practical functions are menstruation, gestation, expulsion and puerperium. It is true, however, that the uterus plays a dominant role in the biological and pathological life of woman. In function the uterus experiences a considerable change and discloses extraordinary activity scarcely equalled by any other bodily organ.



In ordinary uterine functions, such as secretion, absorption and peristalsis, little change is manifest; but in the functional crisis of the uterus, such as menstruation, gestation, expulsion (peristalsis), and puerperium, extraordinary changes are manifest. The uterus of pueritas and senescence is perhaps indifferent in physical and psychical conditions.