

as lungs by the interchange of gases between the fœtal and the maternal blood; it conveys the blue blood, which contains carbonic acid gas, from the fœtus, and returns to the fœtus the red blood, containing oxygen, from the mother.

It also acts in the capacity of stomach, as it conveys nourishment from the mother to the fœtus; and as kidneys, as it conveys the waste products from the fœtus to be eliminated by the mother.

These functions are performed from the fourth month of pregnancy.

When the placenta is expelled, the fœtal side presents first.

ABNORMAL PLACENTÆ

Having now learnt something of the structure and uses of the placenta, we will go on to study the various abnormalities which may arise.

For one thing, the placenta varies very much in size. In the normal placenta, also, the cord is attached in the centre, but you will find sometimes that it is attached to the edge, and this variety is known as the "battledore" placenta.

Also you may find that the cord reaches the membranes a little distance from the edge of the placenta, and the bloodvessels then divide into