

own vessels; blood is thus poured out around the ovum into the interior of the tube. The progress of the condition now depends largely upon the site occupied by the impregnated ovum. The spot in which earliest rupture takes place is near to, or in, the uterine wall where the tube pierces the muscular structure of this organ. The middle portion of the tube allows of much greater distension, and, as a consequence, the pregnancy in this situation will proceed further without rupture. When the ovum is situated toward the abdominal ostium of the tube, tubal abor-

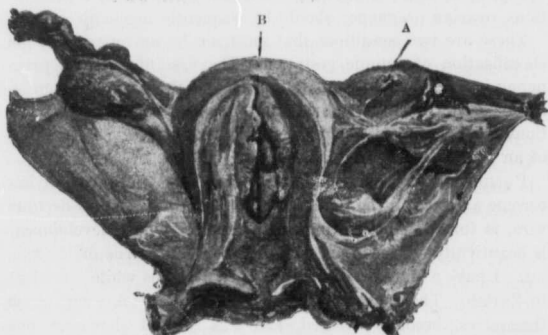


FIG. 1.—A, ruptured tubal pregnancy; B, decidua *in situ*.

tion is liable to occur through the fimbriated end. This leak may only be small, or, in other words, a tubal "drip."

Rupture of the sac may occur at any of the sites liable to be occupied by the impregnated ovum, and the result may or may not be fatal to the mother and may or may not be fatal to the fetus.

The ovum survives the rupture in only a very few cases. The site of rupture in the interstitial variety may be so small as almost to escape detection, as is shown in the specimen here exhibited (Fig. 2) and reported in the table as No. 34.

Tait says that rupture may occur as early as the fourth week. I think I have seen it occur earlier. In THE AMERICAN JOURNAL