

diverging blades of the mesometrium on the lateral uterine border serves as distributing, yielding and supporting (fascial) bed for vessels and nerves previous to their distribution in the myometrium. The lateral border of the uterus is important because the uterine segment of the utero-ovarian artery passes in a spiral course between the blades of the mesometrium at from one-fourth to three-fourths of an inch from the uterus. The uterus may be extirpated without severing the utero-ovarian artery, simply severing the rami laterales uteri. Clinically the lateral uterine border is important in differential diagnosis as



to pelvic tumors and as the lymph route for infection (cellulitis phlegmon).

SURFACES.

Surfaces of the uterus, *facies uteri*, mainly refer to the external and internal coverings of the dorsal and ventral walls. (a) Externally the dorsal and ventral uterine surface *facies uteri*, is covered by peritoneum and is free. The peritoneum covers the corpus and fundus uteri only, not the cervix, uterine surfaces are free and glide on adjacent viscera with minimum friction. (b) Internally the ventral and dorsal uterine surfaces present a continuous mucosa, differing in structure and function in the different uterine segments. The dorsal and ventral mucosa of