of contiguity, the mother being the host and nourisher of the developing child. The physiologic relationship between the mother and embryo is so slight that but for the practical difficulties involved the impregnated human ovum might be transferred from one womb to another without interrupting its development, as has actually been done in some of the lower animals. Even the blood of the mother can only reach the child by osmosis through a membranous barrier, and there is no direct nervous communication whatever. The unfortunate structural aberrations originate very early in development and often before a woman is aware of her condition, and practically always before the maternal impression, to which the anomaly is ascribed, takes place. The great objection to the superstition, however, is the baleful effect on the expectant mother, to say nothing of the bad effect it has on the study of teratology, cases which should receive careful scientific study being relegated to idle speculation on maternal impressions and fancied resemblances.

Detection of Semen.

Galto (*Rif. Med.*, November 3rd, 1906) has carried out a series of experiments in the detection of semen and seminal stains by the method introduced by Barterio. This depends on the fact that when a saturated solution of picric acid is mixed with semen (whether fresh, or dried, or in solution) and then examined under the microscope, certain crystals can be seen. These crystals are very slender, and have an average size of 10 to 15 mcr.; they present themselves as rhomboid needles, with obtuse angles, often crossed longitudinally by a refragent line. They may appear as round ovoid corpuscles when the angles have been much rounded off. The author has tried many other fluids besides human semen (for example, saliva, urine, blood, pus, milk, and many others), and the results were always negative whilst with semen (even in stains 22 years old) the characteristic crystals were always present. Semen from the horse, rabbit, dog, and ox, did not give the reaction, nor could it be obtained from fluid taken from the seminal vesicles, epididymis, testes, or prostate. The exact method or substance from which the crystals are produced is uncertain; the author suggests that in the ejaculation of semen some process not altogether unlike that of the formation of fibrin in the blood, may occur, for apparently the crystals are not present when testicular fluid is mixed with the