

tongue is coated, and breath offensive. There is a heavy, dead weight feeling in the pelvic region, and at last expulsion of the uterine contents takes place unexpectedly. This expulsion occurs usually, though not invariably, before the expected full term of pregnancy would have been reached. The mass expelled represents the nearly dried, shrivelled foetus rolled up in the membranes and placenta. It is of a dirty brown color, firm in consistence, and is in the so-called state of mummification. It may be asked, "What is this state?" In answer, we can only say that it is a state of decomposition wherein the fluids or juices of the embryo become absorbed after its death, and that the solids almost alone remain. There are several theories advanced regarding the agency at work in this process of absorption. The most reasonable, probably, is an augmented rapidity of endosmosis, due to a larger percentage of saline ingredients in the liquor amnii in the early and middle periods of gestation.

This mummified condition has often been observed in cases where death of foetus has been due to a process of gradual inanition from inadequate blood supply; as, for instance, in the case of torsion or constriction of the umbilical cord. I do not know that we can correctly give a definite name to this particular form of decomposition. We are sure, however, that it is not a putrid change,—no atmospheric air has come in contact with it; it is non-septic and harmless. Mummification often occurs in twin pregnancies—one foetus dying, the other going on to full term, when both are generally expelled together. To enter into the cause of death of the foetus in these cases would be a digression. I will, however, say that we find in many cases there is a marked adhesion between the placenta and the uterine walls, which may also play some part in determining a short or long term of retention. When a mummified foetus has been subjected to much intra-uterine compression, the term "*Papyracious*" is applied to it. Another form of decomposition which the dead foetus in utero will undergo is known by the term *Maceration*. Here a granular degeneration and dissolution of the anatomical elements are everywhere evident. A foetus of one or two months may become completely dissolved away,