

PREPARATION FOR MOTHERHOOD

CHAPTER I

THE PELVIC ORGANS

THE word pelvis is derived from a Greek term meaning a dish, or bowl. It is the bony basin forming the lower part of the body. The hip bones are the highest point on each side. From these it slopes down until in front there is only a comparatively narrow rim called the pubic arch. The side of the bowl below this is cut away, and it is under this arch that the child passes at the time of birth.

Stretching across the pelvis is a broad band, or ligament, dividing it into two parts, firmly attached to it on each side. This supports in the middle the uterus, or womb, where the child lives and grows from its earliest conception until it is born. Leading from each side of the uterus, at the upper part, are two tiny tubes, about four inches long, called the