

Of the four varieties of extra-uterine gestation, the tubal is by far the most frequent, as well as the most fatal, the abdominal the least fatal, and the interstitial the most rare (*q*).

The duration of extra-uterine pregnancy will depend upon its situation; thus, if it lie in the fallopian tube, it rarely lasts beyond two months, whereas ovarian pregnancy will last five or six months; on the other hand in ventral pregnancy, the foetus will not only be carried to the full term, but far beyond that period, amounting to several years. Dr Campbell gives the following account of seventy-five cases. It was retained three months in two instances, four in one, five in one, nine in two, fifteen in three, sixteen in two, seventeen in two, and eighteen months in seven; one year in five, two in eight, three in seven, four in four, five in one, six in two, seven in three, nine in one, ten in three, eleven in two, thirteen in one, fourteen in two, sixteen in one, twenty-one in one, twenty-two in one, twenty-six in two, twenty-eight in one, thirty-one in one, thirty-two in one, thirty-three in one, thirty-five in two, forty-eight in one, fifty in one, fifty-two in one, fifty-five in one, and fifty-six years in one.

The probable causes of extra-uterine pregnancy are various and at least are but conjectural. Among the most likely, however, are original conformation occasionally, pathological changes, and accidental occurrences. To the latter of these causes I am disposed to attribute the case now under consideration, viz., to the fall through the trap door, in the seventh week of pregnancy when the foetus was doubtless within the uterus.

Anatomical conformation is supposed to favour tubal or parietal extra-uterine impregnation. But almost all the cases on record have occurred to women who had previously borne a family; and it is presumed if such a shape of the uterus disposed to it, that it would be more frequently met with in first pregnancies.

Among the accidental occurrences, mental agitation on the part of the woman while in the enjoyment of the conjugal embrace is not improbable, as cases are recorded in which this irregularity has followed a shock or surprise received in *coitu*. The fact that a large relative proportion of unmarried females have been the subjects of this complaint favours the opinion. Campbell says (*r*) that "out of fifteen cases five were unmarried females," certainly a large proportion, and Burdach (*s*) says, "such persons are more liable to be afflicted with extra-uterine gestations than women of regular habits and steady character."

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(*q*) Rigby, Lib. of Med., vol. VI, p. 71.

(*r*) *Memoire*, p. 108.

(*s*) *Physiologie*, traduit de l'Allemand par Jourdain, 1838; vol. II, p. 135.