

spiritual nature has for its companion and domestic, the intelligent nature, which requires a long and careful training. These are a few of the great series of the code of laws which regulate the periodic movements and phenomena of our bodies, especially of those of woman.

The body of a human being is destined to last for seventy years or more. It is a principle of nature well known to artisans and machinists, that an article of manufacture, or a machine, which is designed to last for a long period, must be composed of fine particles, and have more labor spent upon it, than will be required for one which is to last a shorter time. Upon this principle, the body of a human being necessarily must be slow in its formation and its growth,

The uterus when first impregnated, is not larger than an ordinary pear, nor capable of containing half an ounce of fluid. At the termination of its pregnancy, it contains a child weighing eight or nine pounds, a placenta and its membranes weighing a pound or more, and two or three pints, or even quarts, of liquor amnii. The increase of the uterus, is much more extraordinary as a phenomenon, than the increase of the fœtus, but both of them must be limited, or the death of the woman would ensue. What are the laws and causes of the limitation of this increase?

At first, the uterus is merely wanted as a bag or bladder, to contain the ovum, with its membranes and its fluids. The muscular structure, therefore, is of a very slight and feeble texture, and scarcely manifests the proper quality of muscle—contraction and dilation. The ovum is a quiet substance, requiring nothing more than a safe place for preservation, and therefore, is sufficiently protected and provided for, by a membranous sac.

In time, however, the fœtus is developed, and as its muscularity increases with its size, and as the pressure on the sac in which it is contained increases, resistance to its pressure and its movements, becomes a requisite provision for the preservation and well being of itself and mother. The uterus, from the necessity of the case, becomes increasingly a muscular organ, and as it grows in size, the muscular tissue is augmented, to resist the pressure and the movements of the fœtus.

If these two processes and powers progress in equal ratio, their limitation must depend upon some third condition or provision. This is discovered in the final confirmation of the woman. Her form admits of but a certain definite amount of size and action of the uterus; when that is passed, resistance from the superior and primary organization—the mother—overpowers the secondary and inferior—that of the uterus—and that in turn, compels the tertiary—the fœtus—to submit.

The fœtus grows, becomes more muscular and active, and the uterus expands and strengthens, to contain, and to resist the growing augmentation and activity of the fœtus. At length, encroachments on the medium of the uterus, is employed in order to dislodge the burden that oppresses her.

The muscles of the abdomen and dorsum, the thorax, and the pelvis, and the lumbi, all conspire and all co-operate to force the intruder from his hitherto most welcome sanctuary.

The uterus being weakest at the aperture, must offer least resistance