

Naturally, during the whole period of physiological growth, this is a law of the organism.

The ultimate and essential cause of all growth depends on the organization of the species—hereditary, or, as they might be called, historical causes, in consequence of which the body and its organs, in each individual species, develop to a typical form and size, requiring a definite period of time for the whole body, and a variable period for the different organs, some of which attain their full development much earlier than others—the thymus, for example, at the second year, the genitals at puberty. In the history of these latter organs the most striking example is afforded of the influence of the original tendency on the physiological growth of the body. On no other ground can it be that the genitals during childhood remain undeveloped, to begin at puberty a rapid and increased growth, which in comparison with that of childhood is abnormal, and is not regarded as such simply because, according to the type of our organization, the child-like growth is only normal for a definite period. But in the same organs a much more marked instance of (abnormal) growth, dependent on inherent tendency, is afforded by the enlargement of the pregnant uterus. The cause of this cannot be regarded as due to the increased blood-flow, for muscle fibres do not grow unless they are stimulated, *i. e.*, work,—as, for example, the muscles of the stomach or bladder when there is any unusual resistance to be overcome. The hypertrophy of the uterus can in no way be compared with this latter form of growth, but only with the enlargement which all parts of the body undergo during the period of development, that is to say, in consequence of an inherent tendency in the germ of mammalia, the uterus, under certain conditions, namely impregnation, grows beyond its normal size.

The explanation of the occurrence of monsters, *per excessum*, is to be sought for in some abnormality in the embryonal plan. In such cases the abnormality is congenital, but there are instances of abnormal growth, *post partum*, which must also be referred to embryonic influences. In the case of giants, some are born as