

In some cases the embryo disappears altogether. In a few it may be found, but insignificant and blighted, the degeneration of the villi preceding and determining the death of the embryo. In these there is generally present some portion of the placental structure which is free from vesicular degeneration. From a medical legal standpoint it is important to remember that this condition is essentially the result of conception.

REPORT OF CASES.

CASE 1.—Mrs. W. aged 25 years, primipara, had had a miscarriage about one year previous; and when I was called to see her, I found her in labor, having completed her fourth month's gestation. On examination found the uterus about the size of a six months' gestation; a small vagina; the os far up and slightly dilated and very rigid; some blood escaping from the os; pains quite severe and frequent. After being in labor for about six hours, on going to make a second examination found that some vesicles had escaped which at once explained the character of the case. At this time the patient was losing considerable blood. After some effort I succeeded in getting two fingers through the os and peeling off the mass, which contained only traces of placental tissues; consisting almost entirely of vesicles, varying in size from 2 to 3 millimeters in diameter, to the size of a large sized nutmeg. I carefully palpated the uterine cavity to be sure that all had come away; gave the patient a full dose of ergot. She made an uneventful recovery.

CASE 2.—Mrs. S., aged 30. Second para; one miscarriage. When called to patient found her almost exsanguined; clothing and bedding saturated with blood. Examination revealed a rigid os, slightly dilated; uterus about the size of a three months' gestation. I packed the cervix and vagina with iodoform gauze and had her removed to Grace Hospital, where, under anesthesia, I dilated and emptied the uterus, carefully curetting the whole endometrium, I used the curette in this case, as the uterine walls were not distended beyond that of a normal pregnancy at three months.

Two-thirds of the mass removed in this case was placental tissue, only about one-third having undergone cystic degeneration. The patient made an uninterrupted recovery.

CASE 3.—Mrs. N., aged 28. Second para; three miscarriages. When first called to see this patient she had the appearance of one suffering from malignant disease. She gave a history of having had persistent vomiting for over two months and of being three months pregnant. Patient complained of having had a rather profuse discharge at times from the vagina, which on examination proved to be of the typical