

At the junction of the middle to lower portion is a ring, known as "Bandl's ring." It is to this lower portion of the uterus that sometimes a part or the whole of the placenta becomes attached, causing afterwards serious loss of blood, and this condition is known as *placenta prævia*.

Like the bladder and rectum, the uterus is composed of three coats—viz.:

The inner, or mucous.
The middle, or muscular.
The outer, or peritoneal.

The opening of the uterus is called the "external os."

You will readily understand how very much this uterus must expand by the time that a full-time child is ready to be born, and you will see what I mean when I tell you it is an "elastic structure." It is a marvellous thing, when you think of it, that an organ only 3 inches long can expand so as to accommodate a child 6 to 12 pounds in weight and 20 inches in length, not to mention all the other accompaniments of pregnancy.

It is more wonderful still that, after the child is born, the organ gradually shrinks back to almost the size it was in the beginning.

The Ovaries are almond-shaped bodies, situated one on each side of the uterus. Each ovary weighs about $\frac{1}{4}$ ounce, is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch