

depression on its centre, exhibiting the point of escape of the ovule, was evident beyond all cavil. In this same ovary one other Graafian vesicle seemed fully matured, the parts surrounding it being highly congested, but the ovule had not escaped. The other ovary was generally congested, but there appeared to be no mature Graafian vesicle.

But the most interesting feature in the case was the *complete absence of the lining membrane of the cavity of the body of the uterus*. The moment my eye alighted on the inner surface of the organ, I recognized the woodcut of Tyler Smith, in the May, 1856, number of the *Lancet* (Amer. edition), representing the inner surface of the uterus of a woman who died of apoplexy during the catamenial flow. Nothing could have been more striking than this resemblance; and if I had ever been sceptical in relation to the observations of the author, I was now bound to admit his accuracy. Down to the *os uteri internum* the mucous membrane was gone, and the inner surface of the organ rough, with innumerable blood-spots scattered over it. All below the *os internum* was smooth, and in every respect natural in appearance. The difference in sensation conveyed to the finger by touching the two surfaces was as palpable as the impression conveyed to the eye.

"The only doubt now remaining about the case was, whether it might not be a uterus which had very recently been delivered of an early ovum. More extended examination, however, proved clearly that this was not the case. The vagina was very small, and its mucous membrane highly corrugated; and there was a well-defined hymen. To add to this the mammae showed none of the changes generally produced by early pregnancy.

"The subject was, to all appearance, about eighteen or twenty years of age, and quite robust. She was the subject of anasarca to a considerable extent, and was said to have died very suddenly—her death being attributed to disease of the heart. I tried to get a more accurate history of her from the nurse of the ward in which she died, but, as is too often the case, she only knew that such a woman had been in the ward, had lived, and then had died.

"Tyler Smith says, 'According to my view, the mucous membrane of the uterus becomes excrementitious every month, and is discharged from the cavity of the uterus in a state of disintegration, and the uterus forms a new mucous coat, by a process similar to the reproduction of lost parts.' Coste and others speak of the exfoliation of the mucous membrane of the uterine cavity under certain circumstances; but, so far as I am aware, Tyler Smith is the original advocate of the theory above laid down. After reading all the observations I could procure on this inter-