

been blighted at or near the eighth week, and that this specimen was accompanied by a placental mass, in which this foetus was found enclosed at the time of its expulsion. The foetus was one inch long, was perfect in all its parts, was firm in texture, and advancing to a dry state. The placenta was of the size of a normal placenta at about the fourth or fifth month. Its gross appearance showed advanced fatty and fibroid degeneration. Its foetal surface was lined by chorion and amnion membrane. It had a large amniotic cavity filled to distension with dark coagulated blood, and containing within this cavity the foetus before-mentioned. From the history of the case which I gave at the time, it will be remembered that the patient—a young married woman, who had already borne three children at full term—ceased to menstruate early in January, and had a sudden hæmorrhage in March on the occasion of a severe fright. That this hæmorrhage gradually ceased, and that—with the exception of a dark, non-offensive, intermittent discharge, accompanied by general bad health and reduction in abdominal size—nothing left the uterus until December following, when the foetus and mass exhibited were expelled, as I have explained. At the meeting in question of this Society, I maintained that pregnancy took place in January and ceased in March at the occurrence of the hæmorrhage; that the hæmorrhage was sufficient to cause death of the foetus, but not of complete separation of the decidua and abortion; that the foetus was retained in the unbroken amniotic sac, and that the placenta underwent retrograde change and increase in size; that expulsion of the uterine contents did not take place until December following, or *about eleven months of uninterrupted retention*; and that uterine contraction was then probably excited by a flow of blood into the amniotic sac, which was found filled with a dark coagulum.

During the discussion which followed in connection with this case, some of my brother members took issue with me on one or two important points. And as I considered these points to be worthy of some special notice in regard to their medico-legal bearing, I have not lost an opportunity wherein I could obtain material to throw more light upon the subject. In doing so I