

refer to histology and physiology. The functions of the tubes, it is generally agreed, are to transmit the ovum from the ovary to the uterus, and permit the passage of spermatozoa from the uterus in the direction of the ovary. The ciliated epithelium lining the tube and the peristaltic action of its walls aid in this matter. In regard to this, Michael Foster, in his "Text-Book on Physiology," says "the spermatozoa find their way into the Fallopian tubes, and here in its upper part comes in contact with the ovaries. In some of the lower animals impregnation may take place at the ovary itself."

Lusk says "after coitus the spermatozoa make their way through the Fallopian tubes to the pelvic cavity, and *it is possible*, therefore, for the ovum to become impregnated at any time on the way from the ovary to the uterus." It is a well-known fact, and one not to be forgotten, that *spermatozoa* move by *inherent force* at a rate variously estimated. Henle says "they move an inch in seven and one-half minutes." Sims calculates that "they move their length in a second," nor are their movements easily interfered with, for Robin states "they push out of their way epithelial cells or crystals ten times their size."

The inherent power of the spermatozoa is made manifest in those cases where women have become pregnant with an almost imperforate hymen, or with atresia vaginæ so nearly complete that there was only a small fistulous tract leading to the uterus, or in that remarkable case where the spermatozoa reached the uterus through the bladder, having to pass through the urine. Kœberle reports a case "where the uterus had been amputated two years before for fibroid tumour, but a fistula was present in the cicatrix of the cervix through which spermatozoa passed into the abdominal cavity and pregnancy resulted. That when one tube being closed, the ovum may become impregnated by spermatozoa from the other tube is shown by the experiments of Leopold. He tied the right Fallopian tube in rabbits in two places and excised a portion of the tube between the ligatures, the left ovary was carefully removed and the abdominal wound closed. After recovery the rabbits were put to the male. In two such cases pregnancy resulted."—(*Arch. f. Gynæc.*, vol. xvi., page 24.