

in the upper part, and its growth commences. It is soon surrounded by a covering of membrane, called the amniotic sac, which after a time is filled with a fluid in which the child floats. At the time of birth this amounts to about a quart. When the sac ruptures to permit the escape of the child, the liquid comes away, and this is known as the breaking of the waters.

The liquid protects the child from accidental injury from a sudden jolt, or jar, to the mother. It also defends the uterus from contact with the hard surface of the child. At the time of birth, when the mouth of the uterus begins to uncloze, the bag of water slips into the aperture like a wedge and holds it open, preventing it from closing until it is fully expanded to permit the outward passage of the child.

During the time that it is within the uterus the infant receives air and nourishment through the umbilical cord, which is attached to its navel. This begins to grow at the end of the first month, and is about twenty inches long when finished. It contains two arteries and a vein, through which the child's blood is carried to the mother for purification and enrichment, and returned to build up the fast-growing frame.

At first the wall of the uterus, much thickened