

appearance of mucus tinged with blood. This is termed the *show*.

These pains consist of a contraction of the uterus, then an incomplete relaxation when the pain passes off; and the amount of suffering during this stage varies very much in different women. As a rule the patient is able to be up and walk about, which considerably helps the pains to do their work.

As the os is dilating, a lubricating secretion is poured out by the glands of the cervix, and the walls of the vagina become relaxed and dilatable. Sometimes vomiting occurs, and in a normal labour it is usually at the end of this stage that the membranes rupture.

The second stage lasts from one to two hours, and consists of contractions of the uterus and abdominal muscles, with uterine retractions and advance of the "presentation," or presenting part.

The vagina becomes dilated by the advancing part, and is rendered aseptic by the liquor amnii.

The anterior (front) wall of the uterus is pulled up with the bladder, and the posterior (back) wall is pushed down with the rectum. The anus dilates; the perineum is distended and thinned. The child is born, breathes, and draws blood from the placenta into its body.

The third stage usually lasts from twenty to