

undoubtedly non-essential, but it is destroyed by degenerative processes and by the trophoblastic action of the outermost layer of the fetal epiblast. As far as our observations go in human development the same processes occur there.

*b.* Pregnancy may occur in a girl before the onset of menstruation, at a time therefore, when the mucosa cannot be denuded by that process.

*c.* It may occur during the lactation period, long after the uterine mucosa has been restored, and at a period in which menstruation is in abeyance.

*d.* It may take place in one of the periods of amenorrhœa during the progress of the menopause.

*e.* It may occur in periods of amenorrhœa due to diseases *e.g.*, anæmia, phthisis.

*f.* Clinical experience of cases of pregnancy following a single coitus proves that development of the ovum may begin at any time, not necessarily immediately after menstruation. (It must be stated that this evidence is of doubtful significance, owing to the uncertainty in our knowledge as to the time it takes the ovum to pass from the ovary down through the genital tract and as to how long the spermatozoa may live in the tract.)

*g.* Pregnancy may occur in the rudimentary horn of a malformed uterus, menstruation never having taken place in that horn.

(Whereas, as P. Müller points out, there is no record of pregnancy having ever occurred in the horn of a bicornuate uterus which is atresic in its lower part; menstruation goes on in it, as we know, the blood accumulating above the atresia).

*h.* It may occur years after menstruation has ceased at the supposed menopause. An interesting example is Renaudin's case in which a woman of sixty-two was delivered though she had not menstruated for over ten years.

*i.* In male pseudo-hermaphrodites, possessing testes but no ovaries, the vagina, uterus and tubes may be present and menstruation may go on regularly or irregularly.

Another view is to the effect that, along with the maturation of the ovum, the endometrium swells as the first stage in the formation of a decidua which will receive the ovum if it be fertilized. If fertilization does not occur, breaking down of the superficial portion, the so-called "menstrual decidua" occurs, and the menstrual discharge takes place; in this way menstruation may be regarded as the expression of the failure of a process meant to be initial to pregnancy. For, if fertilization occurs, it is thought that the swollen mucosa advances to form the decidua of pregnancy.