

Classification. Every pregnancy is the result of the impregnation of an ovum of the female by the spermatozoon of the male. The normal place for the development of the impregnated ovum is the cavity of the uterus. The channel through which the ovum must pass from the ovary, in order to gain the uterine cavity, is the Fallopian tube. Just where impregnation normally takes place is still an unsettled question. By some the situation is claimed for the uterus alone, by others for the ovary and sometimes for the tube.² On the one hand there is not much evidence for the belief that the seat of normal impregnation is limited to the cavity of the uterus; on the other hand facts are known concerning the invasion of the tubes by spermatozoa which unmistakeably point to the conclusion that normal fructification of the ovum may occur at any stage of its passage from the ovary to the uterus. It may thus be stated that an abnormal arrest, whether mechanical or special, of a fructified ovum in its progress toward the uterus is the determining factor of an extra-uterine, ectopic, or misplaced pregnancy. Theoretically this arrest may occur (1), in the ovary, (2), in the abdominal cavity between the ovary and tube, (3), within the tube, and (4), between the tube and the uterus. The first seems to be theoretical only. Many writers deny the possibility of the ovum becoming impregnated within the Graafian follicle and continuing to grow there, while others, quoting from various observers acknowledging the existence of such fecundation, freely admit that there are but few indubitable cases in record. Howard Kelly³ describes it as "one of the greatest gynæcological rarities." Taylor¹ says "it is possible but absolute proof of such a pregnancy seems to be incomplete." For a practical study of the subject this variety may be dismissed. The second—arrest within the abdominal cavity between the ovary and tube—is probably almost immediately fatal to the unprotected ovum, owing to the digestive power of the peritoneum, and consequently may be eliminated from discussion. The fourth point of arrest—between the tube and uterus—may be quite correctly regarded as arrest in the uterine portion of the Fallopian tube. To all intents and purposes then we have, at the outset, but one kind only—arrest within the tube, or *tubal pregnancy*, and it is to this variety I shall mainly direct your attention. All other varieties are tub