

placenta or cleaning of the foal is attached. The muscular coat is next to that of the mucous coat, and lies between the outer and inner coats of the womb. It is made up of muscular fibres, and is strong and thick in the womb, much thicker than it is in the bowels or other organs already mentioned. The use of this coat is to support and protect the foetus or young while it is being carried in the womb, and at the time of parturition, or what is commonly known as foaling, this coat then comes into use, as it contracts the womb very forcibly on the foal, while the neck of womb lies open, helping to force the foal out of the womb. This is important to note as the contraction of this coat is known as labour pains. Lying outside, and covering around the womb, is found a serous coat, which is a continuation of the serous coat of the bowels. The womb is held to its place by strong ligaments attached to the sides of it, and from there to the hip bones, these are called broad ligaments. At the back part of the womb is found the neck. It consists of an opening, formed by a projection, which is about the size of an egg and has a hard, gritty feeling when the animal is not in season and the neck is closed. The neck of the womb is under control of the muscle around it, and this muscle is under control of the nerves of the womb. When the mare comes in season, this muscle is relaxed to a certain extent, thus allowing the neck to open large enough for the passage of a couple of fingers into it; but upon working around it with the fingers it can be forced large enough for a man's hand to pass into it at this period. If the mare is put to the horse at this time, and becomes pregnant or with foal, the muscle in the neck of the womb contracts, firmly closing it, which remains closed until the time of foaling. When, at the time of foaling, the labour pains come on, the muscle in the neck dilates, allowing the neck of the womb to open large enough for the foal to pass out. The neck of the womb can be felt easily by oiling the hand and passing it into the passage to the womb, and it will be noticed that the neck spoken of projects into the passage.

Vagina and Vulva.—These two organs together make up the passage which leads into the womb from the outside. In the young mare they are separated by a thin curtain, or partition, made up of mucous membrane. This curtain is found about four inches from the outside, and is known as the hymen. This membrane is destroyed, or should be, when the mare is first put to the horse,