VII. DESCRIPTION *of an* EXTRA-UTERINE FÆTUS. *By Mr*
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MUCH light has been thrown upon many of the most important and intricate functions of the animal machine, by accurate inquiries into the processes of nature under extraordinary circumstances. The doctrine of conception, lately advanced, owes its support, in no small degree, to observations made on cases, in which, from adventitious causes, Nature has been led out of her ordinary tract. The following case appears to be of such a description; and, as tending further to elucidate the subject, may probably be not unacceptable to the learned members of this Society.

THE woman, who was the subject of the following investigation, was aged twenty-eight, of a robust form; had been six times pregnant; first at the age of nineteen, when she was delivered of a living child; she then had two abortions; of the fourth pregnancy she was delivered of a living child; and of the fifth she miscarried, about five weeks before her death. On the morning of the day she died, at about half past eleven, after having gone through considerable fatigue in cleaning her house, she was seized with a violent pain in the lower part of the abdomen, which continued till her death; she gradually became weaker; her abdomen became more and more swollen, and about nine in the evening she died. Having felt extraordi-

nary sensations for a short time before this attack, she expressed to her friends a great desire, that, should she die, her body might be examined.

THE abdomen being opened, there appeared, proceeding from the pelvis, a considerable quantity of blood, both in a fluid, and in a coagulated, state: two measured quarts were taken from the cavity.

THE source of the hæmorrhage was an interesting point of inquiry. This soon appeared. In the middle of the Fallopian tube of the left side, nearly at an equal distance from its fimbriated extremity and its termination in the uterus, a pouch was formed, about the size of a pigeon's egg, or a little larger, of an oval form, in the middle of which was a rupture, of the bigness of a small quill, through which it was plain the blood had issued. The parts were removed, for more accurate examination. Having divided the vagina, I was struck with the appearance of a quantity of jelly, extending from the os uteri, and also with the increased size of the uterus, which led to a suspicion that there had been a recent conception. The nature of the case now began to unfold itself. It appeared, that an extra-uterine gestation had taken place; that the process was going on in the Fallopian tube, the embryo having rested there instead of passing to the cavity of the uterus; that the tube had enlarged to the capable extent, and then had burst. The fimbriated extremity of this tube was open as usual, and its cavity nearly of the natural size, perhaps a little enlarged. It possessed also the tortuous form, as is common, till it began to expand to form the pouch. The tube was of its natural size also, in that half towards the uterus, and was also pervious; for, quicksilver was introduced by the tube near the uterus, towards the pouch, which passed readily, and insinuated itself between the pouch and its contents. The quicksilver passed readily also into the
cavity

cavity of the uterus ; so that there was no permanent obstruction to the passage of the embryo into the uterus.

HAVING carefully laid open the pouch, it appeared full of a firm coagulum. Upon breaking through this, at the depth of about a quarter of an inch, there appeared a membranous circle, of a lightish colour, about the size of a scarlet bean, and within this another similar membrane presented itself, perfectly distinct from the former ; probably these membranes represented the chorion and amnion. Within the latter membrane, nothing could be discovered but coagulum. There was no appearance of foetus ; but it must be remembered, that only five weeks had elapsed since the last abortion.

THE uterus was much thickened, being nearly twice its bulk in an unimpregnated state ; and, notwithstanding the hæmorrhage which had occurred, its vessels appeared considerably enlarged. The cervix uteri was entirely filled with a jelly, and the whole surface of the cavity of the uterus was lined with a softish glutinous substance, which seemed organized, and was much redder than the rest of the uterus. Changes had been produced in the uterus similar to what are seen in ordinary gestation ; its parietes were thickened ; its cavity enlarged ; its cervix shut up with a jelly ; and the glutinous effusion just described might not perhaps improperly be considered as a membrana decidua in its early state of formation.

THE ovaria were much vesiculated, particularly the left, in which there was a corpus luteum of considerable size : in the right ovarium there was no corpus luteum. The vesicles in these ovaria were large and much distended. Their appearance was exactly similar to that of the ovaria of a young woman I some time ago examined, who had died from an accident, after having been married but a few days, in whose uterus there were evident marks of impregnation, and in both ovaria, corpora lutea, two or three, I am not certain which, in one ovarium,

and one in the other. The corpora lutea, in both cases, appeared to be formed by an effusion of blood, afterwards coagulated, into a burst vesicle. The section which shewed the corpus luteum, discovered its internal substance to be dark, with a border of a yellowish colour, as if formed of coagulating lymph, separated from crassamentum.

THE very early impregnation, after the abortion, in this case, is a circumstance that seems entitled to remark. Only five weeks intervened between her last miscarriage and her death; and it must be supposed that impregnation happened a considerable time before her death, from the changes which had taken place. If I might be allowed to venture a conjecture of the cause of these phenomena, Does it not appear that there might have been some irregular contraction of the Fallopian tube, which is probably muscular, that caused the embryo to rest where it did? It was proved there was no permanent cause of obstruction in the tube.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE II. shews the uterus and its appendages, with the enlargement in the Fallopian tube, having a burst opening in its middle. The whole is drawn, as nearly as possible, of the dimensions of the parts. By the division of the uterus may be seen its increased thickness and size, and an attempt to shew the jelly occupying the cervix uteri.

PLATE III. exhibits two figures: the one shews the enlargement of the Fallopian tube, and the appearance of its contents as described; the other expresses the ovarium of the same side, with a large corpus luteum.