

#### STATE OF THE UTERUS IMMEDIATELY AFTER COITUS.

In May, 1827, I was invited by Dr Samuel Tucker to examine, *post mortem*, the body of a female who had destroyed herself with laudanum. She was apparently between eighteen and twenty years of age, wellformed, and in good health. She passed a night or the most of it, *in coitu* with a young man, and before morning swallowed a large quantity of laudanum. Dr Tucker was called to her in the course of the morning, but so late that all his efforts to restore her were ineffectual. The body was opened the next morning in the presence of Doctors Tucker and Meigs. Neither the head nor chest were opened. The viscera of the abdomen, as far as they were examined, exhibited no mark of disease, but the odor of laudanum was very strong in the stomach. I removed the internal organs of generation, and took them home for examination.

The uterus was larger than I had ever before seen it when healthy and unimpregnated, and its color indicated more vascularity. The ovaries were large, extremely vascular, and situated nearer the uterus than usual. Instead of hanging loose at the distance of an inch or more, they appeared to be drawn so close to the sides of the uterus, that there was scarcely the space of a quarter of an inch between them. The Fallopian tubes were very vascular, so much so as to give them a firmer and more fleshy appearance than usual, and instead of ending in loose, floating fimbriæ, appeared to terminate by a union with the ovaries, and

to be very tortuous on account of the short distance between the ovaries and the origin of the tubes. On the surface of the ovaries were seen a few small vesicles of the size of shot, projecting little or none beyond the surface of the gland, and containing a slightly turbid fluid. From the ovaries and the fimbriæ several small vesicles were seen hanging by extremely delicate pedicles, from one fourth to seven-eighths of an inch in length. They looked like pyriform drops of mucus, a little larger than the seeds of grapes, covered with an extremely delicate pellicle, which appeared to constitute the fibrils by which they were suspended. Upon cutting open the uterus, it was found to be thickly coated with a substance having the appearance and the strong peculiar odor of semen. Some of this substance was in the neck of the uterus. The Fallopian tubes, (at least the one that was laid open,) contained apparently the same matter, but whether it possessed the seminal odor was not ascertained. Upon wiping this matter from the lining membrane of the uterus, it was found to be of a vivid red, as red as the conjunctiva in acute ophthalmia, or as if it had been injected with vermilion. — *Am. Journ. Med. Scien.*