

standing the mechanism of these functions, we must explain a little more particularly the nature of those necessary parts, the umbilical cord, the membranes, the liquor which they contain and the placenta. The umbilical cord, which is attached to the body of the foetus at the navel, is composed of two arteries and one vein; these prolong the circulation of the blood, but the vein is larger than the arteries. At the extremity of the cord each of these vessels divide into an infinity of ramifications, which extend between two membranes. They separate at equal distances from the common trunk; so that these ramifications are round and flat, and are called, when thus collected, the *placenta*. The external surface, which is applied against the matrix, is convex; the internal concave. The blood of the foetus circulates in the cord, and in the placenta. The arteries of the cord spring from two large arteries of the foetus, and carry the blood through the arterial ramifications of the placenta; from thence it passes into the venous branches which carry it into the umbilical vessels; these communicate with a vein of the foetus, in which vessels it is received.

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