



A
TREATISE
ON THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF
MIDWIFERY,

Chiefly with regard to the
OPERATION.

To which are added

Fifty-seven CASES, selected from
upwards of Twenty-seven Years
Practice.

The SECOND EDITION, with large
Additions and Improvements.

By EDMUND CHAPMAN, SURGEON.

L O N D O N:

Printed for JOHN BRINDLEY, at the *King's Arms*
in *New Bond-Street*; JOHN CLARKE, under the
Royal Exchange; and CHARLES CORBETT, at
Addison's Head against *St. Dunstan's Church* in
Fleetstreet. 1735.



T O

Dr. E. Milward.

S I R,



S you was pleased
to allow me the
Liberty of pay-
ing You my Re-
spects in this Manner, on
the Publication of my Per-
formance, when only an
Essay, and consequently less
worthy

D E D I C A T I O N.

worthy of the Name, which appeared at the Head of it; I now take the same Liberty of presenting it to You a second Time, and hope I may venture to say, I now offer You a complete *Treatise* on the Subject.

I T would be ungenerous and unjust to desire a Worthy and Learned Friend should be answerable for the Mistakes and Faults of a Writer; as well as vain and highly unreasonable to expect any Name should screen him from Censure. But, while I submit my
Per-

DEDICATION.

Performance to the Judgment of the World, give me Leave, SIR, to make this Publick Acknowledgment of your many Favours; and particularly that invaluable one of, under *God*, preserving Mine and my Son's Life. I am,

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Your most Obedient,

Most Humble Servant,

Ed. Chapman.

Orange-Street, Red-
Lion-Square, 1735.

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Chapman Street, No. 10.
London, 1733.



THE
PREFACE.



S all the Books hitherto published on this Subject have been calculated chiefly for the Instruction of my own Sex, I was induced to write this *Treatise* principally for the Use of the other, to whom the Majority of Practice in this important and difficult Profession is committed,

that they may be cautioned to send for Assistance, when necessary. I flatter my self, however, that those worthy Gentlemen, who are engaged in it, but have not yet had sufficient Experience of that great Variety of Cases which daily occur, will not find the following Pages entirely useless.

I HAVE frequently, during the Space of above *twenty* seven Years Practice, seen many fatal Mistakes committed by Midwives, which I think could never have happened, had they ever read a Treatise so well adapted to their Capacities, and at the same time so full and plain, as I hope, the following is.

Mv

My greatest Aim in it, is, faithfully to instruct, not such as are quite ignorant, but such as have already made some Progress in the Science, and to point out to them those dangerous *Rocks* on which many have been lost; that they may either be able to give better Assistance themselves, or at least to see the Danger time enough to call in superior Advice. LIFE is a *Jewel*, in the Opinion of all Mankind, of the greatest Value; and those to whose Care this weighty Trust is committed, cannot possibly discharge it with too much Circumspection and Diligence.

I A M

I AM far from attempting or desiring, with some of my Brethren, that the Practice of *Midwifery* should be confin'd only to my own Sex, and this for several Reasons. First, because among so great a Number of Child-bearing Women, of all Degrees, a much greater Attendance is required, than we alone could possibly give. Besides, where the Labour is natural, as it happens with most Women, there is seldom any greater Assistance necessary than what those of their own Sex, who have been bred up to it, are capable of affording; especially in this *Metropolis*, where

I have met with several extremely well qualified. However, I must beg leave to give them this one piece of Advice, *viz.* That where any Difficulty occurs, they would readily in time call in our Assistance; as when a Child presents with its *Head*, but does not, after a sufficient Tryal, fall any lower; when the Posture happens to be Wrong, and consequently the Child requires Turning; but more especially that they would not delay to send for a Man of Character and Experience in case of *Floodings*, or other Threatening Symptoms. By this, both the Patient's Life and their own Reputation will be the more secure.

I deny

I deny not, but that many Women-Midwives may know how to *turn* a Child, nor that they may, in some Subjects, perform it with Success: But then considering the many unforeseen Difficulties that may happen, especially the *Head's* sticking against the Bones of the *Pelvis*, and that in spite of the greatest Care, and the most exact Position: I believe this Advice will not be thought impertinent by the most experienced among them, whom, *by the by*, I have ever found most ready to call in superior Assistance. And indeed they find their own Account in it, as it greatly advances *their* Character ;

ter ; whilst it is far otherwise with those, who conceiving too favourable an Opinion of their own Judgment and Abilities, run great Hazards, or, at the best, call us in too late, and thus lose their Reputation and Practice.

MIDWIFERY is certainly one of the most noble and useful *Chirurgical* Operations in being ; for all Operations receive their Weight from the *Good* they procure ; or, to speak more properly, from the *Evil* they prevent : By this, when judiciously performed, there is generally *one*, and often *two* Lives snatched as it were from the Jaws of *Death* ; as in

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a violent *Flooding* for Instance, where the Mother, or Child, or both, would be inevitably lost in a few Minutes, without Delivery: or where the Infant lies in a bad Posture, and so could never have been extracted but by the Assistance of *Art*.

IT is indeed possible to save a Child by the *Cæsarian* Operation, or cutting it out of the Womb of its Mother just expired; but what Man in his Senses would put his Character upon this Footing? It would be natural for the malicious World to say, that to save the Child, he kill'd the Mother; and the Friends and others
about

about the Deceased, either out of Fondness or Ignorance, might possibly imagine, that she was not quite dead before the Operation was performed. But to return ; I say that by speedy Delivery two Lives are oftentimes saved, as in the Instances above-mentioned, where the Womb being released of its Burden, its Fibres are again contracted, and so the *Flux* stops ; or where the Child is brought away by *Art*, and thus the Date of its own, as well as of its Mother's Life is prolonged.

M A N Y other Instances might be given, where both Lives are actually saved. But the Dignity
and

x P R E F A C E.

and eminent Usefulness of this *Art* will appear to every Person in a much more advantageous Light, if we reflect on the *Learning* and *Abilities* of the Professors of it. *England* and *France* have produced many great and famous Men, who have made the Improvement of this Science the principal Business of their Lives; and we have some at this time living, who are perhaps superior to the Deceased, without any Detraction from their *Characters*, or the least Indignity offered to their *Askes*.

THE Improvements these great Men have made in *Midwifery*,
the

the Tenderneſs, the Compaſſion and Succeſs with which they performed their Duty, have eſſectually removed that Load of *Ignominy*, with which this Profeſſion was formerly branded.

It muſt be acknowledged, there have been ſome who, being ignorant of the Method of *turning* a Child, made frequent uſe of the *Hook* and *Knife*, and ſeveral other ſhocking and barbarous Inſtruments, even while the Child was *living* ; and I had, not long ſince, an Account given me by a Perſon of unqueſtionable Veracity, then preſent, that a poor Woman died under the Hands of the *Operator* after ſome of the

Limbs and *Ribs* of the Child were brought away.

FROM such Operators as these (*cruel* in their Behaviour, *indecent* in their Expressions, and breaking in upon the *Modesty* and *Tenderness* peculiar to the *Sex*) the *Oidium* cast upon this Art had its first Rise. And hence it proceeds, that many unhappy Women have chosen to *die*, or at least to stay till the very last Extremity, rather than call for our Assistance.

BUT the Case is now far otherwise : The best Midwives commonly send for Advice upon the Appearance of Danger ; the Suffering Fair readily consent to
it,

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it, and by this Means both the Child's and Mother's Lives are saved, the *Midwife's* Character secured, and *ours* advanced, by the Success that usually attends our being called in time.

I HAVE in this *Treatise* purposely omitted the Description of the *Parts* concerned in *Generation*, because it has already been so well given by others, that I could do but little more than *copy* them. Besides, I think that such as never saw the *Dissection* of a Human Body, will not be much improved by a bare Description of those Parts; much less would they receive any Advantage from the *Cuts* and *Figures*

gures usually prefixed to Books of this Kind, which are generally but very indifferently done, and serve to raise and encourage *impure* Thoughts in the Reader's Mind, rather than to convey any real *Instruction*.

THE Authors on this Subject already extant in our Language have, in my Opinion, written in a very improper *Style*, and their Works seem to be calculated at least, as much to please the Reader's *Fancy*, as to improve the *Operation*. My Design, on the contrary, was to compose such a Treatise as one of either Sex might read without a *Blush*, and to express myself in such a manner

as

as would not give the least Offence to the most modest Reader.

I HAVE studiously declined giving any *Prescriptions*, or *Forms of Medicines* in the following *Treatise*, because it would be an Affront to such as are regularly educated in the Profession of Physic; as it would look like putting my self on a Level with the Gentlemen of the Faculty. I think it sufficient for one Man to act well in one Capacity; and I have confined my self to the *Operation* of midwifery only, because I would not willingly at any time take the whole Weight upon my self, when it is in my Power to divide it. Besides, I would carefully a-

void making any such Encroachments on others, as I should not like to have made on my self. It has always been, and ever shall be, my constant Practice to call in proper Advice in Cases of Danger; and after *Delivery*, which is my proper Province, I have constantly left such as could afford it, to the Care of their respective *Physicians*. As to the *Poor*, who are not able to give a *Fee*, I think my self in Charity bound to assist them; and certainly it is much better for them to have but inferiour Assistance, than to perish for Want of any.

THE Use of *Hooks* and some other Instruments, by which living

ing Children, presenting with the *Head*, are destroyed, when they might very easily have been extracted in a few Minutes by the *Fillet* or *Forceps*, is, in my Opinion, a most cruel and unwarrantable Practice. But yet, however inhuman, it is, to my certain Knowledge by some kept up to this Day. A fond Mother in this *City* lately told me, with a Flood of Tears, that this was her unhappy Case : The Child had lain long with its *Head* in the *Vagina*, and so low that the Midwife then attending had expected it every Pain for some Hours ; at length one of my Brethren was called in, but not understanding the Use either of the *Forceps* or *Fillet*,

and unwilling to kill the Child, he for some time forbore to be concerned ; but the poor Woman's Torture and Danger increafing, he at length fixed his *Hook* in the *Head* ; and fo extracted it, but, to the great Surprize of the *O-operator*, and Sorrow of the *Mother*, it was living before that Attempt.

I C A N N O T forbear, now I am on this Subject, to mention the following Account, which I received from the *Surgeon* who was confulted, one of good Character in his Profeflion, and now living in this City. He told me he had been lately called to a Gentlewoman in the Country, where

where the Child fell with its *Head* into the *Vagina* very low, and there continued after a considerable time passed in great Pain, without the least Advantage. A *Man-Midwife* upon this was sent for, who knowing the use of the *Hook* only, and being very unwilling to destroy the Child, let it remain in this Condition for several Days; refusing to perform the *Operation*, or to do any thing more for her than to prescribe a few forcing Medicines. At length a *Woman-Midwife* delivered her of a *dead* Child; but the Parts were, by the violent *Inflammation*, and the long continued *Pressure*, so far mortified, that my Friend told
me

me he had not the least Hopes of the Gentlewoman's Recovery when he first saw her.

How necessary is it then, that Men, who profess *Midwifery* should make themselves Masters of either the *Forceps* or *Fillet*? For I now once for all declare, I have no Design of putting them into the Hands of Female Practitioners; the former of which I prefer; because I can pass it with more Ease to the Woman; and the Compression caused by its Use, makes the Bones of the *Head* ride one over the other, and thus reduces it to a smaller Compass. To which may be added, that the *Forceps* gives me a much stronger Hold

Hold of the Child, and enables me to draw it with more Ease and Security. But here I must observe, that as there are several different Sorts of *Forceps*, so they are far from being all equally proper; and great Regard is to be had to their Form. I once saw a Pair at a noted Instrument-Maker's, which I thought very faulty; and was shewn a Pair by a Brother Practitioner in the Country, which could not be used with either Success or Advantage; the Diameter of the Curve being too large, and its Bows too short.

I HAVE in this Piece given a great Variety of select *Cases*, which

which may serve as Directions for others to proceed by in the like Circumstances. Indeed I have been the shorter in the Body of the *Treatise* it self, that I might have more Room to enlarge in the *Cases*; for it is my Opinion, that a *Case*, where all the Incidents are minutely related, will affect the Reader's Memory more than the most exact Description of the same thing in the Body of the Work.

WHEN I published the first Edition of this Work, I thought my self, at least, the second *Englishman*, who had written professedly on the Subject. I have since found I was mistaken; for
Dr.

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Dr. *John Mowbray* has given the World a large Treatise, entituled *The Female Physician*, &c. with what he calls *the whole Art of new improved Midwifery*, &c. That ingenious and laborious Author declares strongly against the Use of frightful Instruments; and in this I heartily join him; but cannot think the *Forceps* deserves that Appellation. As it is not sharper than the Hand, it may be introduced with all imaginable Safety, according to the Directions given in the Body of this Book. I can, from my own Experience, affirm it to be a most excellent Instrument, and so far from Hurting or Destroying, that it frequently saves the Mother's Life,

Life, and that of the Child, as will appear in the Course of this *Treatise*.

I F, by submitting my self to the *Censure* of others, I should have the good Fortune to excite some more masterly Pen to improve this *Art*, it would much augment my Pleasure and Satisfaction, as I shall thereby be in some Measure instrumental in conveying a greater Good to my Fellow-Creatures.

T H E good Reception the first Edition of this Work met with from the best Judges has encouraged me to publish a *second*, with considerable Additions and Improvements.

provements. Some Persons, who thought they did Justice to the Performance itself, by allowing it very good and useful, have taken the Liberty to insinuate it was not my own. Now it might not be amiss to ask those candid Gentleman whence they can reasonably suppose I borrowed the *Matter* here deliver'd. Is it in the least probable, that the ablest Professors of the Art would compliment me with the Fruits of their Labours, and submit to see their Sentiments and Instructions usher'd into the World under the Name of a Person, incapable of producing any Thing of his own? And that I have not this Obligation to any inferior Practitioner,

er,

er, is in a manner acknowledged by the Commendations bestowed on this Piece by my very Enemies; so that on the whole, I am in no real Apprehension of being dispossessed of my Title to the Performance. I own I had some Assistance in regard to the Dictation; and did not send my Papers to the Press till that was revised and corrected. This I know is no unusual Thing; and if that be a Fault, I am so far from repenting of, and amending it, that I have been guilty of it in a much greater Degree, before this second Edition went out of my Hands.

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The



*The Measure and Dimensions of
the Forceps, as inserted in this
Edition, after Page 28. are
as follow :*

THEIR Length in a Right Line,
Fifteen Inches. The Length of
the Bows from the Joint, where the two
Parts cross, to the Upper Extremity, in a
Right Line, Nine Inches and one Quar-
ter. The Girt of the Bows, when shut,
is, in the widest Part, Eight Inches.

N.B. Fig. I. Represents one Part of
the Forceps, Fig. II. the Whole, not quite
shut. Fig. III. On the Plate, inserted
after Page 180, Represents the Pessary.



A
TREATISE
ON THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF
MIDWIFERY.

INTRODUCTION.



Y Design in this *Treatise*, is to
make some Advances or Im-
provements in the great and
useful Art of DELIVERING
WOMEN, with respect to the *Operation* it
self; and to point out those Rocks on
A which

2 INTRODUCTION.

which many of the Fair-Sex are lost, and cut off in the Bloom of Life, amidst the joyful hopes of an approaching Offspring.

As to the *Anatomy* or Description of the *Parts* destin'd to *Generation*, the *Signs* of *Conception* or *Pregnancy*, and those of *Labour*; the manner how a Woman is to manage herself when with Child; how she is to be ordered after her Delivery, the proper *Qualifications* requir'd in *Midwives*; how *Nurses* are to order the New-born Infants, and many other Particulars of the like nature, mentioned by Doctor *Chamberlen*, *Daventer*, *Dionis*, and others, I shall purposely omit them; referring the Readers, who want Information therein, to the Authors here mentioned.

THE Diseases to which Women are subject, both before and after Delivery, as *Vomitings*, *Diarrhæa's*, *Coughs* and *Difficulty of Breathing*; Pains in the *Back*, *Reins*, *Hips*, and *Breasts*; Difficulty of
Urine,

INTRODUCTION. 3

Urine, Hæmorrhoids, Pains and Varicose Swellings in the Thighs and Legs; the Menstruous Flux, Dropsy of the Womb, œdematous Swellings in the Labia Pudendi, Bearing down of the Womb; Costiveness, arising from the Fætus compressing the Intestines; Prolapsus Ani, or Falling down of the Fundament; Suppression, or too great a Flux of the Lochia; Contusions and Dilacerations in the Perinæum and external Parts of the Pudendum; Convulsions, Hysteric Disorders, Fevers, Inflammation in the Uterus, or Vagina; Abscesses in the Groin, Hips, or Thighs; Cancers and Schirrhosities in the Womb; Ruptures, Inflammations or Apostems in the Breasts, Curdling of the Milk, &c. Of these, I say, with many other that might be named, I shall take no Notice, but leave them to *Physicians*, whose Province it is to treat of them. My Aim in this Piece being not so much to inform those who are altogether ignorant, by giving them Instructions for their first setting

4 INTRODUCTION.

out in Practice, as to add something to what is already published, chiefly with regard to the *Operation*; which, I hope, may conduce to the Benefit of the less knowing, and not prove altogether unworthy the Notice of those, who, being already arrived to the highest Pitch of Knowledge and Art, do Honour to their Profession, and Service to the World, by proving the happy Instruments (under Providence) of assisting and preserving the FAIR in the Time of their greatest Danger; and by that Means, of saving many great and eminent Men, who otherwise could never have appeared on the Stage of Life, to do Service to their *King* and *Country*.

I SHOULD not have taken this Task upon myself, had those Gentlemen, who are better qualified for it, been pleased to favour the World with a Treatise of this kind; the want of which was the only Motive that induced me to undertake

INTRODUCTION. 5

take the Publication of this; which is founded upon upwards of *Twenty five Years* Practice and Experience, at *South Halstead* in *Essex*, and the adjacent Countries, and which I therefore hope will be serviceable, at least to every young Practitioner.

THE chief Books on this Subject, extant in our Language, are Dr. *Chamberlen's* Translation of *Mauriceau*, and the Translations of *Dionis*, *Daventer*, &c. which I shall have occasion to mention hereafter; and shall only observe here, that the Secret mentioned by Dr. *Chamberlen**, by which his *Father*, two *Brothers*, and himself saved such Children as presented with the *Head*, but could not be born by natural Pains, was, as is generally believed, if not past all Dispute, the Use of the *Forceps*, now well known to all the principal Men of the Profession, both in Town and Country.

* See his Preface.

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IN his Note (*p.* 176.) speaking of the great Precaution that ought to be used for knowing whether the Infant be alive or dead, he says, “ That it is not so necessary to those Practitioners who can fetch
“ a Child coming right, or with the
“ Arm, without *Hooks*, or sharp Instruments; as the Translator of this Book,
“ his *Father* and *Brothers* can, ”

HERE is something very odd methinks, in applying this Secret to both these Cases, as equally serviceable in either; the Cases differing so very widely, and requiring a quite different Method: For the *Head* presenting and far advanced, is to be taken hold of either by the *Forceps* or *Fillet*, and by them extracted; whereas a Child, which presents an *Arm*, is to be turned, and so brought away by its *Feet*,

DAVENTER

INTRODUCTION. 7

DAVENTER sets out with the specious Pretence of performing all by the *Hand* only, and professes in no Case to use an *Instrument*. This he all along carries on, till at length, in the *Appendix*, he tells us, " That if the *Pelvis* be proportionably too small for the Child, or if
" the Head of the Infant falls down into
" the narrow Cavity of the *Pelvis*, and
" is there so streightned along with the
" Shoulders, that the least Descent is
" not perceived upon the Force of the
" strongest Pains, and all Remedies have
" been tried in vain; for the Safety of
" the Mother, the Infant is to be handled, and drawn out as a *dead one* "

THIS indeed, is a Case which very rarely happens, and almost the only one that requires an *Instrument*; tho' even here, the *Head* may for the most part be commanded by the *Forceps*, of which he does not give the least Hint.

8 INTRODUCTION.

THE Practice of drawing living Children with the *Crotchet* when the *Head* offers, but cannot, by reason of its Bigness, or some Difficulty in the Passage, be brought away, which is still the Custom of some rash, pretending Artists (who know nothing either of Returning the Infant, or of the Use of the *Forceps* or *Fillet*) ought to be utterly condemned and exploded by all fair and honest Practitioners. 'Tis doubtless this barbarous Cruelty in some Operators, that, (as Dr. *Chamberlen* well observes *) has caused that malicious, but false Report, *That where-ever a MAN comes, the MOTHER, or CHILD, or both, must necessarily die*; and is the Reason, many times, of Women's forbearing to send till the Child is dead, or the Mother dying. It shall be my Endeavour in the following Pages, to prove, That most Births may be performed without *Instru-*

* See his Preface to the Reader.

INTRODUCTION. 9

ments, by the Assistance of the *Hand* only; or, where Instruments are really required, by the Help of the *Forceps* or *Fillet*, which are not only perfectly safe and innocent, but extremely useful, and in some Cases absolutely necessary.

BUT to return: As to the *Obliquity*, or ill Situation of the Womb, which *Daventer* makes so much mention of *, I frankly declare, I have never found it to be any other than what follows; *viz.* That either the Mouth of the Womb lies high, and opens backwards, against the *Os Sacrum*, or *Vertebræ*, or else forwards, towards the *Os Pubis*. I have never yet discovered a *lateral* Pointing, and am surprized to find this Author insist so much upon it; though it must be acknowledged he does not stand alone in this Point. Dr. *Mowbray* not only asserts this oblique Situation with an equal Positive-

* Chap. XI.

10 INTRODUCTION.

ness, but is pleased to bestow some very rough Words on such as do not admit it *.

I SHALL not here undertake to enumerate the many different Postures displayed in *Chamberlen*, *Daventer*, and others, for I cannot but think, with *Dionis* †, that those Cuts which represent the different Situations of Infants in the Womb, in the Books of *Guillemau*, *Mauriceau*, and others, are of very little use, especially since 'tis not by the *Eye*, as he observes, but the *Touch* only, that an Artist must judge of the Posture: I shall only observe that a Child either presents with its *Head*, or it does not; if with its *Head*, Notice is to be taken whether the Posture be perfectly natural; *i. e.* whether the Face of the Child lies towards the *Os Sacrum*, or removed from that Figure, either sideways, or to the *Os Pubis*; for this, according to the Make of the Wo-

* Sect. IV. Chap. XIII. † Preface, p. 7:

INTRODUCTION. II

man (not as to the Figuration of the *Womb*, but the Structure and Conformation of the *Bones*) is much to be regarded, and, accordingly, the Child is to be returned, and drawn out by the *Feet*, or else allowed to advance in the Posture it lies in, and so be born with its *Head* first.

IF the Child offers any other Part than the *Head*, the Hand is to be passed gently into the *Womb*, the *Feet* to be searched for, the Child to be turned, and that way to be brought forth without farther Delay.

BUT there is one Case to be excepted; viz. when the Child presents the *Buttocks*, and is advanced in that Posture even beyond the *Labia*; it is then to be extracted as it lies: which I should chuse to perform by passing a Finger or two of one Hand, or, if possible, of both Hands, to the *Groin*, and thus bring the Child away,
rather

12 INTRODUCTION.

rather than attempt the *Feet*. This, however, can be done only when the Child is small, or the Woman large. Otherwise the Woman is to be laid on her *Back*, with her *Hips* raised, and her *Shoulders* low, and then the Child to be returned so as the *Feet* may be commanded.

To the First of these then, viz. A Child presenting with its *Head*.



CHAP.



C H A P. I.

Of a Child presenting its HEAD.

IF, after a sufficient Tryal of natural Pains, the Head still lies high, bearing against the *Os Pubis*; some Authors advise, when the Head presses upon that Bone, and cannot be stirred or returned by a Finger or two, that the Hand may be passed, the Head in some measure put back, and then left again to Nature. But I cannot see why the Hand once in the *Womb*, the *Feet* should not at the same time rather be sought for, than to hazard a needless Experiment, and at last be forced to make use of that Method.

N A Y,

NAY, if the *Head* be really fallen into the *Vagina*, it may, in many Women, be returned with much Ease and Safety both to the Mother and Child, as I have often experienced. But when the Head has lain for some time low, when the *Pelvis* is small (whether the Position of the Face be right or wrong) when the Parts are close compressed, and the *Head* is not to be returned, when there is no Room for the Hand to pass, when the natural Pains are of little or no Service, and the Child still living; to bring it away, I say, in this Case, is a Matter of the greatest Nicety and Difficulty.

INDEED there can be no Certainty of the Child's being *Dead*, whilst the Skin of the Head is whole and firm, and no Putrefaction or *cadaverous* Smell perceived. But by passing the Hand to the *Navel String*, as near the *Navel* as possible, if that has lost its Pulse, and you feel not the beating of the *Umbilical Arteries*, if
the

the *Navel String* be diminish'd in its Bigness, and is become small and flabby, if you feel no Motion of the *Heart* between the Ribs, if the Tongue be soft, and without Motion, if the Bones of the Head move to and fro, and the *Sutures* ride, or wrap over one another, the Child is then dead beyond all Dispute. But this is not always to be known; and the Room requisite for doing this will generally allow of taking the Child by the *Feet*.

SOMETIMES there shall be all the usual Symptoms of *Labour*, the Pains strong and true, the Head of the Child very low, and bearing forcibly down every Pain; yet the *Os Tincæ* shall be but very little dilated, and that after many Hours strong Pain. Here nothing more is to be done, than with the Finger to dilate, and thrust back the *Ring* or *Circle*, if I may so speak, which the *Os Tincæ*, now very thin, makes upon the *Head* of the Child.

This

This was the Case of a poor Woman some Years past, to whom I was called; she had been many Hours in *Labour*, in the Beginning of which the Waters broke, the Head of the Child lay in the *Vagina*, so low in the Pains, that the unskilful Midwife (who had never touched the Mouth of the Womb, which, as it generally does in this Case, lay more than ordinary *backwards*) had given Hopes of Delivery the very next Pain. Here I did no more than with my Finger dilate and cast back the Ring of the *Os Tincæ*, and so in a few Minutes released the poor Infant, which was near spent by its fruitless Efforts and streightned Lodging; the *Waters* having been long lost, and the Pressure on the Infant very great, especially in the Pains.

BUT to return to the Method of saving a Child whose Head presents, and lies fixed in the *Pelvis*, and must of Necessity be born that way,

T H I S

THIS can be done but two Ways, viz. Either by slipping a *Fillet* over the Head, in such a manner as to extract the Child thereby (which I have oftentimes done with great Success) or by taking hold of the Head with the *Forceps*. It is to be observed, that neither of these can be used, if the *Head* does not lie very low, nor is their Use to be otherwise attempted.

THE former of these I must beg leave to be silent in, as being entirely an Invention of my own; not but that I have been told since the first Publication of this Treatise, that this is so far from being an Invention of mine, that the *Fillet* is generally, or at least, very frequently employed. I own indeed, that it may be commonly used in turning a Child, by securing one Foot with it, as I have directed; but do not believe the Manner of passing it over the Head to be so universally known and practised.

As to the *Forceps*, which, I think, no Person has yet any more than barely mentioned, it is a noble Instrument, to which many now living owe their Lives, as I can assert from my own Knowledge and long successful Practice.

THIS Instrument, tho' not pointed, must yet be used with Caution: You are first to pass one Part thereof above, gently introducing it, and guarding and directing the *Bow* as far as you can, with all the Fingers of the left Hand (the Instrument lying in the Hollow of the Hand) being careful that no Fold or Part of the *Vagina* get between the Instrument and the Head of the Child, which would at once hinder any Hold of the Head (and consequently foil you in the Attempt) and bruise the Part that intervenes. But a little Care will easily prevent this.

ONE Part thus passed over the Head, and under the *Os Pubis*, the other is to be
passed

passed over the *Os Sacrum*; and thus a Laceration will be avoided. When those are passed, they are then to be brought close together, and, if you please, the Screw may be put through and fastened with the *Button*, tho' there is no occasion for the Loss of so much Time; for without doing this, the *Hand* will prove sufficient to keep them together; and thus you may extract the Head, by drawing gently down.

It is much better, as I have just observed, that the two Parts of the *Forceps* should not be joined or fixed by a *Screw*, the Hand being sufficient, and that for these Reasons. *First*, because when they are screw'd together, tho' they should not happen to be exactly opposite to each other, yet they will turn so as to take fast Hold of the Infant's Head, and readily extract it. *Secondly*, In case one of the Parts should slip, it is then easily returned to its proper Post, without being taken

wholly away: Whereas when they are screwed together, and then slip off on one Side (which I have often experienced, in spite of the greatest Care I could use) the Instrument is to be repassed, and screwed as at first. They have oftentimes slipped, and when I expected the Head of the Child, I have been deceived, and found the Handle Part come close, the Instrument only in my Hands, and the Work all to do over again. I have always found the Instrument far less apt to slip since I omitted fastning the Parts together; and with more Ease to the Patient as well as myself, and in much less Time than before, have found the Head of the Child fairly fixt in the Instrument; that is, between the two Parts or *Bows*: so that in a few Seconds of a Minute, I have had the Child's Head with the Instrument, after which little or no Difficulty remains. Thus have I delivered several Women since my coming to *Town*, some of whom you will find mentioned in the C A S E S at the End of

of this TREATISE; and Mr. Gifford, in Case XIV, and elsewhere, frequently complains that his *Extractor* slip, which I am fully persuaded it would not have done, if the Parts had been left unjoined, as I now use them.

I do ingenuously confess, that I came by this Hint and Improvement by mere *Accident*, as, I believe, is frequently the Case in Discoveries of the greatest Importance. For many Years my *Forceps* happen'd to be made of so soft a Metal as to bend or give way, or suffer some Alteration in their *Curve*. They were made, as usual, with the *Screw* fixed to one Part or Side of them. These I used for some Years; but they often happening to slip off sideways (as before mentioned) my Opinion of the Instrument was so much lessened, that for many Years after I used it but seldom, and even not once in the Space of Ten Years. During which Time, when the

Child could not be turned, I employed the *Fillet* only. This I freely communicated to a very ingenious *Practitioner*, now living in the Country, who will, I doubt not, readily remember it upon reading this. At length I caused another Pair to be made me, of better Metal, and some other Improvements; the *Screw* Part being contrived to take out, and not fixed, as in the former. This *Screw* I happened to lose in the *Cloths* at the Delivery of a Woman, who, with her Child, is now living and in Health in Town; and being sent for to another presently after, and being indeed forced to make the Trial, found that the Instrument did its Office much better without the *Screw*, or the two Parts being fixt.

ALL I can say in Praise of this noble Instrument, must necessarily fall short of what it justly demands. Those only, who have used it, and experienced the Excellency of it to their own Advantage, and
the

the Security of their Offspring, can be truly sensible of its real Worth. As I think my self in Duty bound to recommend it strongly to the Gentlemen of my Profession, I shall omit no Opportunity of endeavouring to do it Justice. The following Letter was sent me by a Gentleman, who had been recommended to me for Information in the Art, by a Surgeon of the first Rank and Eminence; and has since practised with great Success and Applause.

S I R,

“ IF you please to remember, about
 “ a Week after I came into the
 “ Country, I acquainted you that I was
 “ called to a Woman in Labour, where the
 “ Child presented with the Head far ad-
 “ vanced in the *Vagina*, with the *Os Uteri*
 “ attending. I deliver’d her with the *For-*
 “ *ceps*; and neither the Mother nor the
 “ Child received the least Injury. Since
 “ that Time, I am come into such Cre-

24 A TREATISE

“ dit, that I am frequently called in twice
 “ or thrice a Week; and I thank God, I
 “ have not as yet met with the least Mis-
 “ hap. Our Midwives here are pretty
 “ dexterous; but when the Head falls so
 “ as to require the Use of the *Forceps*,
 “ they are at a Loss. I do not wonder
 “ that Dr. *Chamberlen* became so eminent
 “ in Midwifery, when he had so useful
 “ and so safe an Instrument to practise
 “ with.

“ I have had two Cases, in which I
 “ was obliged to deliver *feetways*; the
 “ *Heads* of the Infants not offering di-
 “ rectly right for the Instrument. I
 “ therefore thought it the best Way to
 “ search for the *Feet*, and succeeded very
 “ well. All the rest I delivered with the
 “ *Forceps*. I must once more beg leave
 “ to express my Gratitude for the candid
 “ and ingenuous Directions you gave me,
 “ during the Time I had the Pleasure of
 “ being your *Pupil*. I heartily congratu-
 “ tulate

“ tulate you on your Success, thank you
“ for the two *Cases* you sent me, and am,

S I R,

Your most obliged

Humble Servant,

Lutterworth
Oct. 30. 1734.

JOHN PAGE.

AND here I cannot forbear testifying
an uncommon Surprize at Dr. *Mowbray's*
Method of treating this admirable Instru-
ment, which he takes the Liberty of re-
presenting as a barbarous Invention for
sacrificing the Child, in Order to save the
Mother's Life †; and ranks it with the
Hook, and other really barbarous Tools,
calculated for extracting the Infant *dead*
or *alive, whole or in Pieces*. His Pathet-
ical Exclamations, which make so pretty
a Figure on this Occasion, might have

† Sect. V. Chap. XIX.

been

been spared, had he been acquainted with the true Manner of using the *Forceps*. I am not afraid to say he was really ignorant in this Particular; when I find him talking of *braining the Child* *, and then *drawing it forth* with the *Forceps*; whereas it is evident, from the Directions here laid down for its Application, that it is to compress the Parts of the Head so as to extract the Infant with Ease and Safety, and that no Use can be made of it when *the Child is brain'd*, as he elegantly words it; but that when it can be introduced, it effectually prevents that dismal Accident.

THE same Gentleman is pleased to declare elsewhere † against all Instruments in general, “ in all Conditions of Births, whether *Natural* or *Preternatural*, *dead* or *alive* ” and declares that “ in all Cases the *Hand* is solely obliged,

* Ibid. † Sect. V. Chap. XXVI.

“ and only best serves, according to the
 “ Rules of his Profession, to discharge
 “ the Duty of all the Instruments in the
 “ Surgeon’s Shop; excepting only in the
 “ Case of a *Monster*, or a very *Hydropical*
 “ Child”. But, I do not apprehend
 that any Thing advanced by this Author
 against that excellent Instrument here re-
 commended, will be allowed much
 weight to its Prejudice; since, as it ap-
 pears, he was unacquainted with the true
 Use of it.

I must acknowledge myself short, in
 not giving the Figure of my *Forceps* in
 the former Edition. I was not indeed so
 thoroughly sensible of this Defect till I
 found my *Essay* honourably mentioned
 by a learned Society established at *Edin-
 burgh* for the Improvement of *Physic* and
Surgery, in the *Medical Essays and Obser-
 vations*, &c. Vol. III. Art. XXXI. As
 these Gentlemen, by saying I have not
 given a Description of that Instrument,

as

as I used it, seem to insinuate that something is wanting to render this Work more complete and satisfactory; I have now subjoin'd an exact Draught of my *Forceps*, which is very little different from that used by the late Mr. *William Giffard*; and which I apprehend too of a Make preferable to those represented Table V. of the *Medical Essays &c.* as taking better Hold of the Child's Head than can be done by an Instrument, whose *Curves* are broad, and not divided and formed into a Sort of a Ring, as in the Figure here exhibited; in which the most protuberant Parts of the Head lie naked; whereas in the *Extractors* last mention'd the whole is covered, and the Instrument of course takes up more Room.

BUT to return. When it is past all dispute that the Child is really *dead*, and the Women about you are fully convinced of it, then indeed, the Child lying thus, may
be

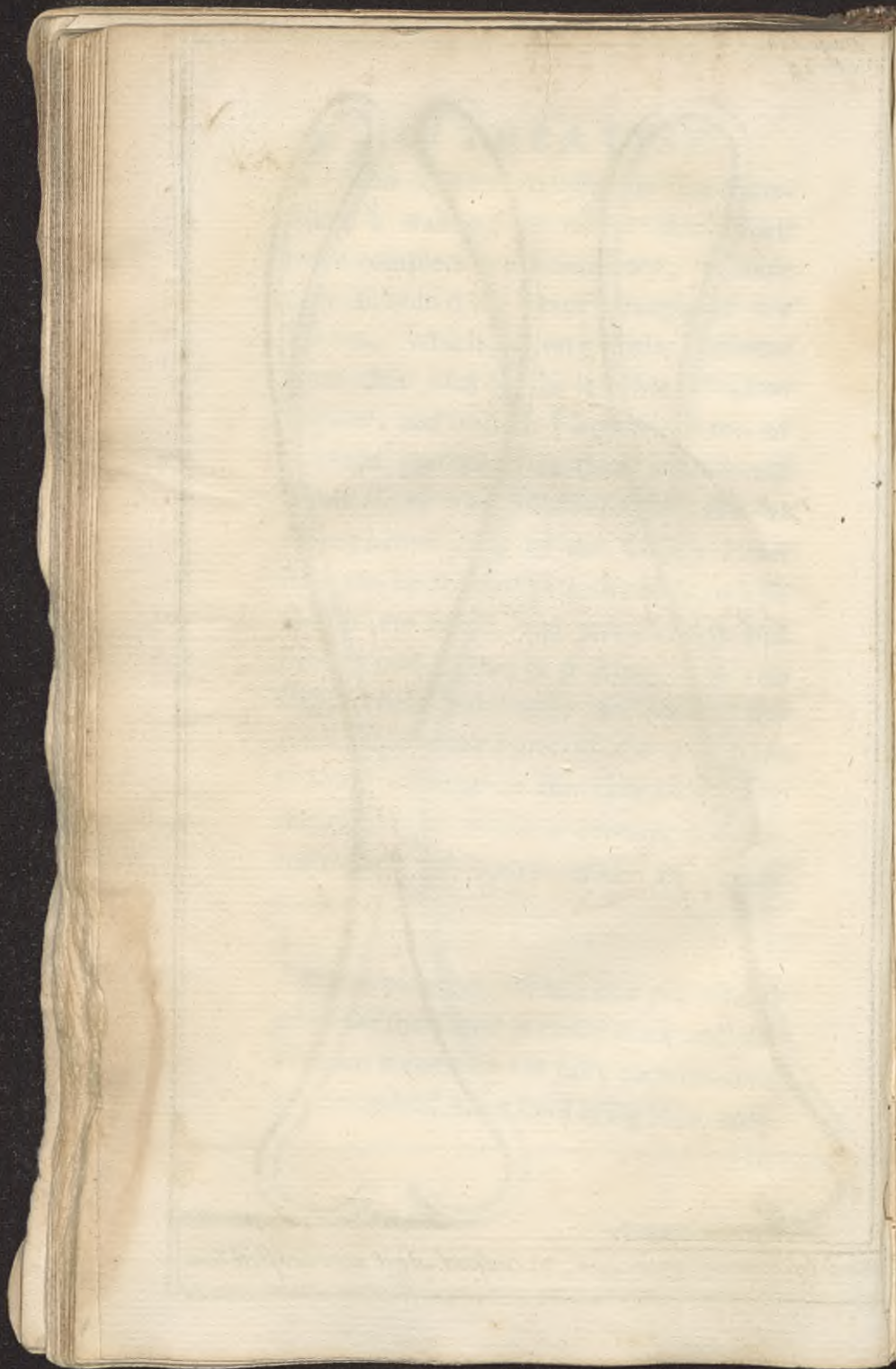
Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Made by Thomas Swain in Bedford Street near Bedford Row



be drawn with the *Crotchet*. But here great Care is required to introduce it against your left *Wrist*, and in the *Hollow* of the *Hand* (which must be first passed, and laid upon the *Head*) and then so to fix and guard the Point of it, that it may not slip and wound the Woman; keeping the Left-Hand all the time up, and upon the Head, till you have it born so far, as to be secure if the *Hook* should chance to break its Hold.

I sometimes use a *blunt* Hook, which, when placed opposite to the Hand, and passed beyond the *Head*, will often take so much hold of it when it lies extremely low, as to do the Business. Tho' even in the Case of a dead Child, the *Forceps* is preferable, and may be used with great Ease and Safety. Here (when it will do) you abate of that prodigious Care required in the Use and Management of the *sharp* Hook.

I would

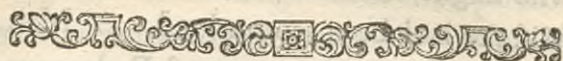
I would of all things advise the *Operator* to be particularly cautious in his Enquiry whether the Infant in the Womb be *dead* or not; if he chuses to employ the *Hook*, or the Child does not lie low enough for the Use of the *Forceps*, and the Parts are so streightened, that he cannot easily turn it; for there have been many deplorable Instances of Infants that have been drawn out this way as *dead*, whilst they have been really *living*. *Daventer* himself tells us*, that he delivered a Woman, as he thought, of a *dead* Child, when, to his great Surprise, and beyond his Expectation, the miserable Infant, who had been but roughly used, filled his Ears with its *Cries* and *Lamentations*. Some Infants, as Dr. *Chamberlen* observes †, have been drawn forth alive, after they have been thought to be *dead*, with both *Arms*, or some other Limb lopped off; and others miserably killed with the Use of *Crotchets*,

* Chap. XXXII. † Lib. II. Chap. XII.

who might have been born alive, if no Mistake had been committed. A Man therefore should use his utmost Endeavour not to be deceived, always remembring, with the above-mentioned Author, " That
 " *Timidity* is, in this Case, more pardon-
 " able than *Temerity*; and that it is better
 " to be deceived in treating a *dead* Infant
 " as if it were *alive*, than a *living* one as
 " if it were *dead* "

THIS Part being finished, I now come to the *Second*, viz. The METHOD of Turning a Child.





C H A P. II.

*Of the Method of TURNING
a Child.*

HIS is to be done in all Cases whatsoever, except in that already treated of; *viz.* When the Head lies high, not yet out of the Womb, or when low in the *Pelvis*, provided it lies so loose as easily to be returned, and the Hand readily passed; as I have performed in many Women, with good Success. When early in Labour, or when, after considerable Pain, the Child does not fall down lower, the Artist is allowed to pass his Hand, and make a sufficient Enquiry; if he finds, I say, the *Face* of the Child turned towards the *Os Pubis*, it is much better to *turn* the Infant, and bring it out by its *Feet*, than
to

to put the Labour upon the foot of *Nature*; since this Method is much more safe and eligible at first, than almost a Certainty of a tedious and hard Labour, with the Hazard of being obliged to have recourse to it at last; or than after a long Continuance of the most acute Pains, accompanied with the Perplexity of a tedious Waiting, the Head at length fallen into the *Pelvis*, to be obliged to assist *Nature* by the Art treated of in the *First* Chapter. Nay, which way soever the Face lies, if the Head does not sink lower, by the Force of true and strong Pains, but hangs as it were above, and presses upon any Part whatever, the Hand (to avoid all puzzling and useless Distinctions) should be passed, the *Feet* sought for, and the Child by them drawn away. I shall be very full and clear on the Manner of performing this in its proper Place.

THUS, I say, a Child presenting with its *Head*, is often to be turned, and deli-

vered with the *Feet* first; in all other Postures whatever, always with the *Feet* first; and always turned, except when it presents with the *Feet*, and Nature has saved the Artist that Labour, and the Mother the Pain; or in the Case specified in the close of the *Introduction*.

I N some Subjects, where the Head has been let down into the *Vagina*, but has not advanced with the Mother's Pains, I have very easily and happily returned it, by gently pressing back the *Head* with the *Hollow* of my Hand, whilst my Fingers, stretched out, were within the *Os Tincæ*; which, tho' not contracted with great Force upon the Child's Neck, stands in need of a little Assistance. Thus having conducted the Head till it is fairly in the *Pelvis*, as it was before it fell down, I then take the Infant by its *Feet*, and so easily extract it. This I did once for a Woman who was much terrified at the Name or Thought of an Instrument, and would
not

not allow of the *Forceps*, and at the same Time fancied a *Fillet* would strangle the Child. I then told her, I would endeavour to deliver her without either of them. Accordingly, I put her in a proper Posture, and delivered her as before directed, in a few Minutes, of a living Child. But I would not advise this to be generally attempted, nor upon all Subjects: For the Head lying very low, and wholly in the *Vagina*, but sticking there, is, with most Safety both to the Mother and Child, extracted by the *Fillet*, or *Forceps*.

I should now proceed to the Manner of *turning* a Child, but shall, in the first place (that I may be the better understood, and set the whole in one View, and as strong a Light as I can, to the young Artist) mention some Particulars relating to both the Mother and Infant, which often occasion much Difficulty in the Performance of it.

36 A TREATISE

IN REGARD to the *Mother* ; The Streightness of the *Vagina* is frequently a great Hindrance ; it being sometimes so narrow, as scarcely to admit even a small Hand, tho' covered with Oil, *Axungia*, or the like. The small Dilatation of the *Os Tincæ* will also sometimes prove an Impediment, as will likewise the *Waters* having been long lost, by which means the Parts are rendered dryer, the Passages less slippery, and more contracted, and consequently less fit for the Egrefs of the Infant. Strong Pains too are oftentimes an Hindrance, when they have occasioned so much Loss of Strength, that the Woman can bear but little Fatigue. One or more of these Causes renders the Operation difficult and dangerous ; but especially the Smallness of the *Pelvis*, and the more than ordinary *Curve* of it ; the prominent Part of the lowest *Vertebræ* * of the

* Lowest *Vertebræ* of the *Loin*s, and the uppermost of the *Os Sacrum*, and not the *Os Sacrum* alone, as Dr. *Mowbray*, Mr. *Giffard*, and others call this

the *Loins* being so great, as to leave too little Space between that and the *Os Pubis*; in which Case it is with great Difficulty that the Hand can be introduced, and harder still to come at the Infant's Legs; especially if the Posture of the Child be against you. But the worst Hindrance of all is, when with great Pains you have turned the Child, and brought it to the *Head* (tho' in ever so right a Position, which is always to be regarded) it sticks there, and will not pass at all, or not without the greatest Difficulty.

THIS unhappy Make of some Women is the Cause of many terrible Labours. Some of the Sex are this Way so very unfortunate, that it is impossible for them to have a Child born without the

this Process. Also in some Subjects, the *Os Pubis* is of such a Formation, as to leave very little Space between it and the *Vertebræ* before mentioned. This Improvement I acknowledge I owe to that excellent Anatomist Dr. *James Douglas*, who has found the Parts thus disposed in a dead Body; since which I have observed the same in another.

38 A TREATISE

Help of *Art*, or even with *Art* to have a *living* one, unless the Child be extremely small made, if I may so speak, to suit with the bad Form of its Mother, and she too have an *Artist* with her very early in her Labour.

THE Make and Conformation of the Woman, as to her *Bones* and the Shape of her Body in general, but particularly as to the Parts concerned in forming the *Pelvis*, and not the *Obliquity of the Womb* (which *Daventer* lays the whole Stress upon) is the common Cause of bad Labours, and the Necessity of *Art*.

IN regard to the Infant, the Difficulty of Turning a Child is more or less, according as the Feet lie at a less or greater Distance from the Mouth of the Womb; according as the Child turns with its Knees up towards its Belly, wholly bending that way; or as it bends backwards, with its Heels turned to the Back, and
perhaps

perhaps near the Head. In the former Posture, the Child more easily bends round, and the Feet are soon brought down into the *Vagina*; whereas in the latter, it is bent with Difficulty, and the Feet are hard to be brought down. As in some Subjects, the Child is turned with the greatest Ease, and in very little Time; so in others it is not to be performed without much Difficulty, and more Time. In this, more Force is required, the Mother suffers accordingly, and the Child is hazarded both as to its Life and Limbs. Another Difficulty arising from the Child, is the Largeness of it, when it is too big for its Mother, either by a natural Make, or by its being *dropfical* in the *Head*, or any other Part. But to come to the Matter in hand, namely the *Manner* of Turning a Child.

THE first thing to be done, is to lay the Woman in a proper Posture, *viz.* with her Shoulders very low, and her

Hips raised high, her Knees held up and kept wide asunder, and her Heels drawn up towards the *Nates*. Which Posture is absolutely necessary, when any part of the Child is to be returned; and always the best; though sometimes I have, in a well-made Woman performed the Operation as she lay on her *Side*. In this Posture the *Womb*, with the Child, will fall back by its own Weight, the Child will be more easily returned (if yet in the least advanced) and the Hand may be passed with more Ease and Expedition, which is now gently to be introduced, being first anointed with *Oil*, *Pomatum*, *Axungia*, or something smooth and slippery, to facilitate its Passage.

THIS being done, it will be easy to perceive what Part offers first. If it be the *Breast* or *Belly*, unless the Child bends backwards, with its Legs turned behind, you will soon find the *Knees*. Whatever the Posture is, you are (with as little Force

Force as possible) to search for the *Feet*; when you have found one, the great *Toe* thereof will soon satisfy you to which Foot it belongs, whereby you will be directed on which Side to search for the other. If it should lie so near that you can get the Feet close together, it is best (if possible) to take them both between your Fore and Middle Fingers, one placed behind above the *Heel*, and the other upon the *Instep*; I say, if you can command both: and then draw them down into the *Vagina* (which, the *Toe* being towards the Child's Belly, in a Woman well made, I have often done) so low, that you may add the Assistance of the other Hand. It is much the best to secure both Legs; but when I could get only one, without giving the Mother too much Pain, and have found the remaining Leg lying toward the Infant's Belly, I have brought the Child away by one Leg, with the additional Assistance of two Fingers in the *Groin*, when the Child

was

was so far advanced, as to allow it. In this Case it is more advisable to leave the second Leg in the said Posture, than to attempt advancing it; because if it be not entirely brought down, but left in the Passage, there will be danger of Fracturing the Child's *Thigh*, and the Woman must endure more Pains; which once happened in my own Practice.

As soon as you have the Legs, you are to take them in a Cloth, and draw them gently down, ever observing that the *Toes* of the Child be turned towards the Mother's *Back*, that when it comes to the *Head*, the *Chin* may not stick or hang upon the *Os Pubis*, as with the Face turned that way, it must do. If the Feet do not at first come this way, the Child is gently to be turned as you draw it, so that before the Head arrives at the Bones, the Face may lie right. But even this Care will not (in some Women) prevent the Infant from sticking at the *Head*. As
the

the Child, being drawn gently, advances, you are to shift your Hands from the *Legs* to the *Thighs*, and as soon as the *Nates* are discharged, you are then to draw no more at the *Thighs* but with a soft Linen Cloth round the *Waist*, and with Hold above the *Hips*, always being particularly careful that the Force be not great enough to strain the *Back* of the Child.

THE most unhappy Circumstances that occur in this way of Delivery proceed either from a disproportionate Largeness of the *Head*, or from its being more *ossified* than ordinary; for the Heads of some Children are much more firm and *ossified* than others. (And hence, by the by, we may see the great Use of the *Fontanelle*, or opening of the Bones of the *Skull* in Infants, that the Bones may by that means ride as it were over one another in the Birth, and so lessen the Magnitude of the Head, for
its

its easier Exit.) Or from a Streightness of the Passage, for which Reasons the Head sticks at or upon the *Os Pubis*, and the protuberant Part or Process of the lowest *Vertebræ* of the Loins before-mentioned. But to return; I say, the Child is to be drawn gently down, till advanced to the *Arm-pits*, or thereabouts, when the *Arms* are to be fetched one at a time, by the Fingers of the Hand on that Side; then a Finger or two of the Left Hand is to be put into the Infant's *Mouth*, whilst the Child is gently drawn with the Right, stirring the *Head* a little to and fro, that it may pass quick; by which means, with the joint Concurrence of a little Help at the *Mouth* (all the other Part of the Left Hand, and part of the Right drawing down, and the Fore and Middle Fingers moving the Head a little) the Operation is generally performed with small Pain to the *Mother*, and manifest Safety to the *Child*. When the Child is advanced to
the

the *Head*, it is more proper for the Woman to be turned on her Side, because thus the Left Hand has more Freedom, and there is then no Pressure on the the Point of the *Os Coxygis*.

I HAVE turned some hundred Children, now living, and several of them advanced to an adult Age. Indeed at my first setting out, and for some Years after, this Operation often proved difficult to me, even in those Cases which I now can, and have upwards of twenty Years last past been able to perform with great Ease; which shews, that in this, as in all other Arts and *Manual* Operations whatever, much Practice and Care are required in every Practitioner, who would arrive at the perfect Mastery of it.

I WOULD be far from being thought to advance, that the Turning of Children is equally easy in all Postures; for it is far otherwise. Thus when the
Navel

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Navel presents, the Feet indeed are easily and readily found, and the Child is bent the right way; but when the *Shoulders* or *Spine* happen to come first, the Feet lie far out of the way, and even when come at, are not without great Difficulty brought forwards; and if drawn backwards, are ill-fetch'd down, and both the Mother and Child suffer greatly. Much more Force or Violence is in this Case required, and the Artist himself has but a hard Task.

AN *Arm* presenting, and advanced as far as the *Axilla* or Arm-pit, is not to be returned, but the Hand is to be passed (which as *Daventer* justly observes *, is often found to penetrate with more ease when the Arm hangs down, than when the same is thrust back again) and the Feet to be sought for; which when

* Midwifery improved, p. 194:

found,

found, the Arm (tho' it were to be wished it was not so fallen) will prove no very great Hindrance in turning the Child. Hence we may see, that the old way of *cutting* * or *twisting off* † an Arm thus advanced, and not to be returned, which was always formerly attempted, is but bad Practice ; though of the two, I must confess the latter Way to be the best. Nor is there any Excuse for the Folly of dipping the Infant's Hand thus hanging out of the Womb in *Cold Water*, rubbing it with *Ice*, or touching it with a wet Cloth, which some ignorant Midwives practise, in hopes that the Child, upon perceiving the Cold, will presently draw it in again ; because the Child is so much compressed and streightened in the Passage by this vicious Posture, that it is impossible for it to draw it in again. Besides, the Weight of the Infant's Body, which

* Vid. Ambros. Parei Op. Lib. xxiii. cap. 26.

† Chamberlen's Mauriceau, p. 204.

bears downwards on the Arm, will effectually hinder it.

SOME Writers advise, that the Infant should in this Case be fetched away by the *Head*; but this, as *Dionis* observes *, and as I myself have experienced, is impossible; because the *Os Tincæ*, or Mouth of the Womb, which is dilated but just enough to give way to the Child's *Arm*, will scarcely admit of the Operator's *Hand*, much less will it suffer the Infant's *Head* to pass. The same Author tells us †, that he laid several Women in this Circumstance, and always succeeded when he turned the Children and brought them away by the *Feet*, as I have here directed; but that whenever he attempted to do it by the *Head*, he had always a great deal of Trouble, and was sure to be disappointed at last.

* Pag. 229.

† Id. Ibid.

I ONCE (as may be seen in Case xxv.) delivered a poor Woman, where the Child's Arm had been eighteen Hours in the World, and much swell'd by the long time, and the Ignorance of the Midwife, who pulled violently at the Arm every Pain; not knowing that it was altogether impossible to extract a full grown Infant by that Method. The Mother is still living, as also the Child, which is about seventeen Years old.

OPERATORS in *Midwifery* cannot possibly be too cautious in the Use of Instruments, nor can they take too great care in informing themselves whether the Infants, on whom they intend to exercise them, are certainly dead or not, as will appear from the following miserable Instance. There was lately living a Man, whose *Arm* was thus cut off before his Body or any other Part but that Arm was born, by a Surgeon and Man-Midwife

D

lately

lately deceas'd, who doubtless, took the Child for dead: But finding it by its bleeding to be alive, which he did not in the least expect, he stopped the Flux of Blood, and the Child (as before mentioned) lived to be a Man. But what a lamentable Prospect must it be to the Standers by, not to mention the poor tender-hearted *Mother*, to see a Child thus brought into the World a *Cripple*, with one Arm lopped off through Mistake!

BUT to proceed. I cannot by any means allow the *Arms* to remain above, and so to be extracted with the *Head*, which was *Daventer's* constant Practice*: The Force to the *Mother* is thus rendered much greater, and the Hazard in regard to the Infant the same, if not much more. For the *Head* may thus

* Pag. 230. In which he is follow'd by Dr. *Mowbray*, p. 265. Though the former owns he in this proceeds contrary to the Opinion of all Authors to him known; and the latter professes to act in direct Opposition to most Writers.

stick upon the Bones, and the Child's Neck be drawn, that is, the *Vertebræ* divided. The *Arms* can be no possible Security; for it is not, as *Daventer* advances*, that the Head is taken hold of by the Mouth of the Womb, by that fixed, and there kept up; but by the *Bones*: And I am surprized that the Author here mentioned should assert, the Child's Safety consists in leaving the *Arms* to come with the *Head*, it being quite otherwise. For the Artist now drawing with greater Force, which is absolutely required in this way of extracting, may be easily deceived; and that Moment when he expects the Child, he may draw its Neck: Whilst in the other Way, the *Arms* being down, he has the Infant's Neck in his Hand, and consequently can better judge of the Force used, and thereby be able to treat it with the greater Tenderneſs.

* Pag. 231.

SINCE (as I said before) the Head is as liable to stick upon the Bones, when the *Arms* are left, as when they are not; the Case, I think, is plain on my Side. But, to put the Matter beyond Dispute, I at one time, out of too great Regard for *Daventer*, took this Method, till I found what I mention, *viz.* that the Head of the Child, though the Face lay exactly right, might stick upon the Bones: For when after the use of proper Strength, the Child was not born (as I had Reason to expect it would) I thought I found something give way, and suspected it to be the Child's *Neck*; upon which I forbore, and fetched down the Child's *Arms*, and found upon Examination that the *Vertebrae* were divided. I then put two Fingers of my Left Hand into its Mouth, and had the Head immediately. Now, had I continued drawing this Child, the Head would doubtless have been wholly divided from the
Body;

Body ; and must afterwards have been fetched away by itself.

THE Woman indeed had been so long in Labour, that the Child's Life was before despair'd of ; but had this Method been taken very early, and the Child been in full Strength, it would certainly have been the same. I shall only observe farther, that I returned to my former Practice, and from that time formed a Resolution never to hazard another Child this way ; unless, which will sometimes be the Case, a small Child (and so a Part in proportion) comes very easily, and with the use of little Force ; for then I continue to draw gently, and find no occasion to stop or fetch down the *Arms*. This is generally done when the *Second* Child, in Case of *Twins*, is taken by the Feet immediately, after the Birth of the First.

I HAVE before said, that it is best, if you can, to take both the Feet at once between your Fingers ; but this is not always, nor indeed very often, to be done. You may bring one Foot into the *Vagina*, then slip a *Fillet* with a running Noose above the Joint ; this done, and the Foot secured, but not confined, you are to endeavour to find the other (to which that already brought down, will be a Direction) passing your Fingers up to the Groin, unless the Foot meets you in the way ; and bring that down also.

THOUGH it is much the best way to have both the Feet, yet sometimes when with great Difficulty I have had one only, rather than give fresh Pain to the Woman already much fatigu'd before I came to her, I have sometimes left the other Leg, and drawn the Child by one, observing to pass a Finger into the *Groin*,
when

when so far advanced ; and this I have done with Safety ; nor have I ever had a *Dislocation* of the *Thigh-Bone* by this Means, or any consequent Lameness of the Part. But as the Force in this Case is greater to the Woman, it ought not to be done, if, without too much *Pain*, the other Foot can possibly be brought down.

IN this way of Delivery, Care is to be taken that the Child lies as little in the Passage as possible, especially when far advanced, lest it be lost, either by the Stagnation of the Blood in the *Navel-string*, now exposed in some measure to Cold, or by the *Placenta* being at this time so much separated, that very little Blood can pass from the Mother to the *Fætus*, so as to keep up the Circulation; for which Reason the Child must die, for want of receiving Air by the Mouth, to put the Lungs in Motion, and so maintain the Circulation that way. Besides,

fides, upon the Mother's account, who must needs be in great Pain, you ought to be as speedy in the Delivery as is consistent with Safety.

WHEN it appears necessary that a Child should be turned, the sooner it is done, the better ; before the Parts are much swelled, and become dry by the Loss of the *Waters*, and the Woman's Strength is too much exhausted.

WHEN there are any of the Hindrances already mentioned in this Chapter, the Work will often prove difficult, and, with some Women impossible. Yet where a Woman is well made, and the *Vagina* receives the Hand, where the *Pelvis* is large, the Bones smooth, and the Spirits not yet exhausted, it may be performed without much Pain or Delay. But when the Passages are narrow, and the Lowest *Vertebræ* of the Loins, and the Upper *Vertebræ* of the *Os Sacrum*,

Sacrum, jet so much forwards as to leave too small a Space between that Protuberance and the *Os Pubis*, it is extremely difficult to come at the Feet; and in a bad Position of the Child, sometimes impossible, without too much Violence to the Woman. When the *Membranes* are not yet broken (as it happens to some who have been a considerable time in Labour) or the *Waters* but lately lost, when the Child is not very large in proportion to the Parts through which it must pass, and its Feet easy to be come at, the Knees lying upon, or near the Belly; this Operation may be performed with great Ease by an experienced Artist, with little Pain (far less than in common natural Labours) and perfect Safety both in respect to the *Mother* and *Child*.

I HAVE this way delivered Numbers in a few Minutes, without Hurry, or the least Appearance of Haste or Rashness, and with very little Pain; as
many

many Persons can attest at, and several Miles round *Halsted* in *Essex*.

Now, though I often turn Children which present with the *Head*; this is not to be understood of true natural Labours, in which by the Force of genuine Pains, when the Woman is of a just Make, and the Child in a good Posture, the Head falling down into the *Pelvis*, and advancing a little every Pain, Nature itself will do the Work with common Assistance. This is indisputably the safest and most happy Labour; and no one can well be ignorant what this common Assistance and proper Attendance is. Those, whoever, that are, may see it in *Daventer*, *Mauriceau*, *Mowbray*, and others; my Design being to treat of such Labours only as require ART.

WHEN there are *two* Children in the Womb, or *three* (which once I met with)

with) after the first is born, I see no manner of Reason *for*, but *against* waiting the Course of Nature, and the Force of the Mother's Pains. The Moment one Child is brought away, and given to those in waiting, the *Artist* is to pass his *Hand* (which may now be done without much Pain) and break the Membranes, if not yet broken, and so bring the other Child away by the Feet. This is a safe and easy way, there being then Room to turn the Child in whatever Posture it may chance to lie, without the least Violence to it or the Mother. No imaginable Harm, that I see, can accrue from this Method; but the Woman will have a clear *Womb*, be immediately freed from Pain, and laid to Rest, and the Infant much more secure than if it runs the Hazard of a tedious Stay, which is oftentimes protracted even to the Space of twenty-four Hours or longer, between Child and Child. I am not a little pleas'd to find Dr. *Mowbray* agree with
me

me exactly in this Point, and advise this Manner of proceeding, in almost the same Words used by me on this Occasion. " I " would fetch, *says he*, the second Child " by the Feet, in Case the second *Flood-* " *ing* is not yet over, and that notwith- " standing the Head should present it's " self first " *.

ON the contrary, the poor Sufferer, after she has gone through the Fatigue of one Labour, and that perhaps a very hard one, and is much spent for want of Rest, will, instead of that Refreshment and inexpressible Satisfaction that may arise from her Pain, Danger and Suspense being over, have them all continued and increased by a second Labour. Weak and harassed as she is, she must be still obliged to go through a fresh Conflict, with all its Accidents and Concomitants; which will greatly endanger her Health

* *Pag. 267.* Where by the *Flooding* he must mean the *Flowing* of the *Waters*.

and

and Strength, and make a much longer Time necessary for her Recovery. But the worst of all, and which too often happen in this Case, are *Floodings*, which generally prove of fatal Consequence. But these shall be the Subject of another Chapter.

IT very often falls out, that (after the Birth of the first) the second Child falls cross, or in some wrong Posture, and *that* after the *Waters* have been long lost, the Parts contracted, and the Woman has been much weakened. There is then an absolute Necessity of bringing the Child away by the *Feet*. How much better then would this have been done at first? Nor are the many Instances that may be brought, of Women and their Offspring doing well (tho' there happens to be a considerable Distance of Time between the Birth of them) a just Objection against this Method, all things duly weighed and considered.

SOME -

SOMETIMES, and very often indeed, it falls out, that the *Navel-String* is twisted twice round the Neck of the Child; so that when it advances in a right Position, and is born as far as the *Shoulders*, I immediately order the Woman next me on the Side I usually deliver the Child from me, which is the Left, to pass the *Scissars* (carefully avoiding any hurt to the Child) under one of the *Involutions*, and cut the *String*, not suffering the Child to advance any farther before this be done. For were the Infant to be wholly born, it would hazard the breaking of the *String*, possibly and most likely at the *Placenta*, and thereby render the Extraction less easy; or, which is much worse, rudely tear off the *Placenta*, which should be cautiously and gently separated; or perhaps pull down the *Fundus Uteri*, and so invert the *Matrix*; which is a Case I have several times met with after the Practice of
rough

rough and ignorant Midwives ; which may serve as a Warning to others, how they pull at the String without a Hand in the Womb to separate and help to extract the *Placenta*.

Now on the other hand ; the dividing of the String, as here directed, can be attended with no bad Consequence ; for that part of it which is left upon the Child may be easily held at the Extremity, or elsewhere, between a Finger and Thumb, by the Person in whose Lap the Child happens to lie, till, by another, the String can be conveniently tied.

AND here I have an Opportunity of observing that most Midwives (especially in the *Country*) usually tie the String at too great a Distance from the Child's Belly, and thereby occasion a Weakness or *Rupture* of that Part ; which in *Females* oftentimes proves of bad Consequence, especially when they come to bear

bear Children themselves. I am inclined to be of Opinion, that this is sometimes the Cause of *Umbilical* Ruptures; it seems to me at least to be no improbable Conjecture. However, I shall leave it to be determined by better Judges. It is very certain, that more than two Inches of the String itself from the *Navel* (which at this time generally jets out a little) is unnecessary; whereas I have commonly known Midwives leave *Five* or *Six*.



Parts, on account of their great Dilatation, will allow of it without Force or Pain) and gently with it assist in extracting the *Placenta*. By this Method no Mischief can happen; but the Cake may, without it, so adhere to the *Fundus Uteri*, as not to be extracted without the Assistance of the Hand, which cannot afterwards be passed without great Trouble and fresh Pain. There may also be a *False Conception* in the Womb; nay even another Child, especially if it be emaciated.

THIS had been the Case of a Woman I once delivered (now living at *Halsted*) had not I taken the Method here mentioned; for one Child was born by Natural Pains, and the *Placenta*, I found, would very easily have followed: But she, without my Assistance, would in all Probability have been put to Rest, with an emaciated Child in her Womb, and its distinct *Placenta*, which I found, and immediately brought away.

MY

My Method is, to give the Child away immediately, and pass my right Hand, as before mentioned, to prevent the *Uterus* from closing on the *Placenta*. At which time the Woman, probably lying on her Side, is to be turned on her Back, that I may have the Advantage of the pressure of my other Hand on her Body, for the more easy extracting the *Placenta*. To prevent *cold*, I order the String to be cut immediately, and its Extremity to be held, for there can be no *Impetus* in the Blood sufficient for forcing its way in the Vessels, which may not be stopt by the least pressure. Nor can I imagine, supposing it let go for a Minute, that the Loss of a small Quantity of Blood would be attended by any bad Consequence; perhaps, on the contrary, such a moderate Loss might prevent *Convulsions*, &c. But I leave this to the Consideration of better Judges.

DIONIS tells us, p. 189. " That
 " if the *After-Birth* in an Abortion, at the
 " End of two or three Months, comes not
 " away, it is not worth while to be con-
 " cerned at it; for it is not big enough
 " to occasion any mortal Symptoms. "
 But I must beg leave to be of the contra-
 ry Opinion; as having in these Miscar-
 riages frequently observed great and dan-
 gerous *Floodings*, and other bad Symptoms
 to arise from a Retention of the *After-*
Burden. Nor would I advise any one
 to trust to its coming away of its *own*
accord, or to leave the Expulsion of it to
Nature, as this Author seems to hint.

BUT to return: A Midwife who is
 not thus careful to introduce her Hand,
 but only takes what comes away of it
 self, may probably leave something be-
 hind, to the great Peril and Prejudice of
 the Woman. The remaining Pains are
 oftentimes imperfect, and so pass under
 the Denomination of *After-Pains*, till a
 bad

bad *Fever* is kindled, or *Floodings* are occasioned; both which generally prove fatal, and might have been prevented by this Method, which was also *Daventer's*, as may be seen in his Treatise *, and which I believe is the present Practice of the greatest Masters in the Profession.

NOR are the Examples of many Women doing very well under the Management of such Midwives as never pass the Hand, any Objection to this Method, since no *one* was ever hurt by it, but *thousands* on the contrary have suffered, nay died, by the Omission thereof.

IT may be necessary perhaps in this Place to add a Word or two concerning the Operation itself. The Hand (as before directed) being introduced into the *Uterus* the Moment the Child is born, the *Placenta*, if already loosened from the

* Chap. XXVIII.

Matrix, will easily fall down into it, (which must lie just within the Mouth of the Womb) and by that Means may be easily grasped by one Hand, whilst you draw the String a little with the other: This will bring it down immediately; but before you do this, it is best, tho' the Cake does not adhere, to pass your Hand so far, as to be assured that there is nothing more remaining. If it does adhere, you are very gently, and by degrees, to separate the Part from the *Matrix* with your Fingers, and when loosened, draw the String gently, and keep all contained (as it were) before the Hollow of the Hand, in the Womb, leaving nothing behind. This is to be done, if you are at the Birth of the Child; and in case you are sent for after the Child is born, the Hand must then be introduced as here directed, and the same Method taken.

I H A V E

I HAVE often been called many Hours after the Birth of the Child, and when the String has been broken off at, or near the *Placenta*. This indeed is a very great Disadvantage; not that the *Navel-String* (as some may imagine) is any Direction or Guide, but because when the *Placenta* is loosened, it is of some Help in the Extraction. It is not, I confess, so easily taken away whole by the Hand only; but nevertheless it may thus with care be done well, and with Safety.

ONE great and common Cause of bad Labour is the Woman's being put upon it too early, whereby she is often much harassed, and her Strength so lost by unprofitable Pains, that when she comes to be fairly and truly in Labour, her Pains, from a Defect of Spirits, cannot rise to a Height sufficient for Delivery, tho' the Make of the Woman and Posture of the Child should happen to favour it. So

E 4 that

that by this Means, that which otherwise might have been an easy and natural Labour, is rendered otherwise, and *Art* is forced to supply the Place of *Nature*.

THE Midwife sometimes cannot distinguish *Genuine* Pains from *Spurious* ones; they are often mixed together, and many Women have such for more than a Month's Time before their Delivery, as much resemble true Labour. Here a Midwife being sent for, shall frequently, without proper Enquiry (that by the *Touch* I mean) encourage these Pains by *Hot Suppings*, *Clysters*, *Cordial Medicines*, a warm Room, &c. and so bring on untimely Labour, to the great Hazard, and sometimes Loss of both the Mother and Child.

No Woman whatever should be put upon her Labour before the *Os Tincæ*, or inner Orifice of the Womb, dilates and opens itself. I have been often call-

ed in at the *sixth, seventh, and eighth* Month, when the small Efforts, Nature has at that time made, and the *Spurious* Pains have been so far heightened by attempting to bring on the Labour, that the Mouth of the Womb has been so much dilated, as to give an easy Admittance to my Hand. Yet there being no Flux from the *Uterus*, I always chose rather to quiet my Patients by proper *Anodynes*, and order them to keep their Beds, &c. by which Means they have gone their full time, and been at last happily delivered. This should ever be done when there are no *Floodings, Convulsions*, or other threatening Symptoms, which call for a speedy and immediate Delivery.

CHAP.



CHAP. IV.

Of FLOODINGS.



FLOODINGS proceed from a Separation of the *Placenta*, either in Whole or in Part, from the *Uterus*. As both the *Veins* and *Arteries* of the *Placenta* are supposed to inosculate with those of the *Uterus*; it is plain to every Capacity, that their Separation, must necessarily be followed by this Discharge, and that it cannot be stopped till the Mouths of these Vessels are contracted, which cannot be, as long as the Womb is distended with its Contents. So that at what Time soever of Pregnancy a Woman happens to be afflicted with *Floodings*, she must be delivered; especially if they come to any great

great Degree, and (as for the most part it happens) the Mouth of the Womb is dilated; that is, if it will easily receive two Fingers. Nothing in this Case but timely Delivery, by which, e're it be too late, the gaping Vessels may contract themselves, can promise the least Safety.

FROM the Want of this many fatal *Hæmorrhages* have happened, in which near the whole Mass of Blood has been exhausted. Few Midwives are sufficiently apprised of this unhappy Symptom, which calls loudly for the best Advice and Assistance, as being a Rock on which many of the Sex are lost.

FLOODINGS after Delivery are very frequent, even when the Delivery is compleat, and nothing remains behind. This may proceed from separating the *Placenta* too hastily, from the Patient's being much heated in a long and hard Labour, from the Blood's being rendered
too

too hot and thin by *Volatiles* and other strong Medicines, given in Labour, in order to support the Spirits, or from a very sanguine and *Plethoric* Constitution, as likewise from too great a Laxity or Relaxation of the *Fibres*. I say, that *Floodings* may, and oftentimes do happen when nothing is left in the Womb: But when there is either a false Conception, or part of the *Placenta* remaining, Nature will doubtless endeavour to expel it, and this must in Course force the Blood out of the Vessels, whose Orifices are not yet closed. They are also occasioned by long and hard Labour; the *Fibres* of the Womb are thereby in a great measure grown *unelastick*, and deprived of their *Tone* or Power of Contraction: So that much Room remaining within, whilst perhaps the *Os Tincæ* is streightened, large Clods shall be formed, which will necessarily occasion Distention and Pain. One Clod again being expelled, the Vessels

fels will sometimes bleed a-new, and form fresh ones.

IF from more than ordinary Pain, it is reasonable to suspect any thing remaining, it is proper to make Enquiry by the *Touch*, and, if possible, to fetch it away. If this cannot be done, that is, if there is no Dilation of the *Os Tinæ*, then proper Medicines are to be given, in order to facilitate the Expulsion, and stay the Flux, whilst the Woman is kept cool.

WHEN the Discharge is very great, it requires the most immediate Assistance, or the unhappy Woman, now just delivered, freed from her Pains and Fears, and flushed as it were with new Life, will be infallibly lost. In this Case I never bleed, but lay the Patient very cool, almost naked, and cover her Body with Cloths dipped in *Water*, or *Vinegar* and *Water* mixed. This I say must be done when the Flux is extremely violent, and
without

without which the Woman's Life would be lost in a few Minutes : It at once constringes and restores the *Tone* of the *Fibres* and *Vessels* of the *Uterus*, at the same time that it abates the too violent Motion of the over-heated Blood. I beg Leave to recommend this Method, as what I am confident has saved the Lives of great Numbers in the Course of my Practice.

I HAVE given several Cases of this sort, which I hope may prove sufficient to engage Female Practitioners to send for superior Assistance, when the Matter becomes too difficult for them. *Daventer* considers the Delivery of a *Fætus* in the Case of violent and dangerous *Fluxes* as the proper Business of a * Man Midwife. And Dr. *Mowbray* in his FEMALE PHYSICIAN, having given a short, but distinct Account of *Fluxes of Blood*, and considered three several Causes of that

* Chap. XXII.

Symptom, and the Danger attending it, adds*: "Wherefore it is, that the respective Cures of these sundry Cases belong only to the ablest Physicians; and that most properly to him, who professes and practises MIDWIFERY; because, when Medicinal Helps fail, and cannot prevent Misfortunes, he will at least know best then, how to compose and mitigate them, by delivering the Woman, if Necessity so require."

THOSE who want further Information on this Subject, may consult Dr. *Chamberlen*, *Daventer*, *Dionis*, and others, who have treated fully of it; and therefore I proceed to give an Account of some remarkable Cases and Observations that have occurred to me in Practice, and which I hope will prove serviceable and advantageous to all such as make MIDWIFERY their Profession.



C H A P. V.

*Containing a variety of CASES,
which illustrate and confirm the
METHODS above laid down.*

C A S E I.

*An Untimely Dilatation of the Os Tincæ
Restored.*



IN the Year 1710, I was called to a Woman, who had very narrowly escaped with Life in some of her former Labours. I found the Mouth of the Womb fairly dilated, even enough to have allowed of the Hand, a large *Water* gathered, together with other usual Symptoms of a natural Labour. Her Pains indeed were but short and imperfect; nor did they increase by the Administration of *Warm Suppings*; upon which I ordered

ordered her to Bed, to take a composing Draught, and keep quiet. Her Pains by this Means were wholly abated, the *Os Tincæ* in some measure contracted it self, and she went three Weeks longer, which was her full time; and then had a kind and speedy Delivery.

C A S E II.

A couple of Infants lost by delaying Delivery.

A WOMAN, who had been twice or thrice delivered by a Man, of Children that always presented with the Head, which the Operator took a fatal Freedom with, viz. using the *Hook*, at last sent for me early in Labour. I found the Mouth of the Womb fairly dilated, a large *Water* gathered, and the Pains true and good, whereby the Membranes were soon broken. The Child lay in a right Posture; but the Head pressing directly upon the *Os Pubis*, it made no Advance, though after a fair Trial of an Hour's

F Pain,

Pain, which was good, and not slow. I then propos'd to deliver her, giving Hopes at the same time of the Child, and promising to use no Instrument; but this was not yet allowed of, and so I was forced to desist, till at last the Woman began to grow weak, and the Pains abated of their Force. I had then Leave to act as I should think fit; upon which I put the Woman into a proper Posture, viz. with her Hips rais'd higher than her Shoulders, and gently passing my Hand into the Womb, I took the Child by the Feet, and so deliver'd her in two or three Minutes, with great Ease and Safety; but the Child was already dead by the long Delay. I attended her also in a second Labour, which proved just the same: Upon which I declared, that it was my Opinion the Child might have been sav'd, had I been allowed to deliver her some Hours sooner, and as soon as the *Membranes* broke, or rather as soon as the Mouth of the Womb would admit my

my Hand. I had then a Promise both from herself and her Friends, that if ever I happened again to attend her in the like Case, I should proceed as my own Judgment directed. Accordingly, I was called a third time, and then in the same manner delivered her easily and happily of a *living* Child.

CASE III.

A Child presenting with its HEAD, extracted by Art, after a long and fruitless Waiting for the Force of Natural Pains.

A GENTLEWOMAN of a very weak Constitution fell gradually and naturally into Labour; the Mouth of the Womb was easily and fairly dilated, a good *Water* gathered, and the Child presented right; but her Pains could not by any Encouragement be raised to such a Height as to bring the Child into the World, or indeed break the *Waters*, whilst she could hardly be

supported from fainting, though there was not the least Loss of *Blood* to occasion it. Finding the Pains could not by *Oil of Cinnamon* (which, by the way, is one of the best Medicines that can be given in this Case) and other proper Remedies, be brought to give sufficient Force, or *Stimulus*, I thought it necessary to have recourse to *Art*, and so with great Ease as well to my Patient as myself, passed my Hand, and in one Minute delivered her of the Child. I likewise delivered her, at different times, of three more Children in the same Manner, but did not wait so long as at first; for finding the Parts would allow of it, I made no Delay, but delivered her as soon after my Arrival as I could make the necessary Preparations, and ever with Safety both to herself and Children, all which are now living.

C A S E

CASE IV.

An Infant advancing with its Head, and born as far as the Shoulders, but sticking there, extracted.

IN 1712 I was called to a Woman, who had lain *ten or twelve* Hours with the Head of the Child born as far as the Shoulders; but the Midwife being ignorant, and the Pains going off, suffered the Infant to stop there. I immediately slipped my Fingers under the *Arm-pits* of the Child, and so presently delivered her, with little or no Difficulty.

CASE V.

A Woman with her Belly hanging down so far as to hinder the Hand from being passed into the Womb, how delivered.

I WAS called to a Woman who had been long in Labour, and in very great Pain. The Midwife very frankly and honestly told me, that she could not

possibly come at the least Knowledge of any Part of the Child, or the *Mouth* of the *Womb*. Indeed it could not well be otherwise by the common Enquiry; for I found her *Belly* (the Body of the *Womb* hanging quite over the *Os Pubis*) like a large *Bag* extending itself almost down to her *Knees*, so that though her Pains were very great, yet there was not the least Direction to the *Vagina*. I put her into a proper Posture, with her Shoulders laid low, and her Hips raised high with Pillows: This done, her Body was held (or as it were thrust) up to her Breast: I then passed my Hand easily into the Womb, the *Os Tincæ* being sufficiently dilated, and by turning the Child, delivered her in a few Minutes. But the Bones of this Infant were, I think, more brittle than ordinary; for fetching down one of the *Arms* with my Finger, it snapped like a Piece of *Glass*. This Accident, I freely confess, has three or four times happened in the Course of my Practice; and

and it is carefully to be guarded against in fetching down the Arms, though they are easily cured, because the Bones in this *Infantile* State are extremely soft and *cartilaginous*, and so will easily yield a *Callus*. This Woman was so well, that at the end of *three Weeks* she walked about *four Miles* to me, with the Child in her Arms, in order to have it dressed.

C A S E VI.

Another Instance of the same.

SOME Years after this, I was called to another Woman where the Case was nearly the same, her Belly hanging down like the former, and her Pains having very little Force on, or Direction to the *Vagina*. This Woman I laid on her Side, and only order'd her Body to be pressed or born up in her Pains, which were true and strong; upon which the Child pitched right for Birth, and the Woman was happily delivered in about an Hour's time.

CASE VII.

A Gentlewoman who died by Flooding, occasioned by her Delivery being delayed.

THE Wife of a Clergyman, in the *seventh* Month of her Pregnancy, had a sudden Discharge of some Ounces of *Blood* from the Womb. I being consulted, told her the Nature of the Case, and the Danger of it; I advised her to bleed at the Arm, and order'd her some *Styptic* and *Astringent* Medicines; telling her at the same time, that if the Flux should return in any considerable Degree, she must, if possible, be delivered. This seemed very strange both to her self and Husband. I then endeavoured to give them a true Knowledge of the Danger, that (when there should be a Return of the Disorder) I might be the more readily allowed to do what should be necessary. Indeed, beyond my Expectation, she remained free from the threatening Symptom till within a few Days of her Account;

count; but then it returned with greater Violence, and without Pain. I was sent for at *four* Miles Distance: When I came, the *Flux* was seemingly stopped, that is, it did not continue to appear, tho' the Vessels were then bleeding: For the Blood coagulating, had for a while obstructed and blocked up the Passage. I declared that she could be safe only by *Delivery*, which should be perform'd immediately, in case the Mouth of the Womb would allow of it, which I hoped it would, and accordingly desired I might be permitted to make the Enquiry; but that was not granted me. I then pronounced the Danger, and made a positive *Prognostick* that, if she was not delivered immediately, or at the very next Return of the *Flux*, it would afterwards be too late to attempt it; for the *Flooding* in course is still greater, as the *Placenta* is more separated. I was desired to attend, and promised upon the next Appearance, that I should have Liberty to do as I judged

judged proper: I waited for two whole Days, and was then obliged to go some Miles distance upon other Business: I returned in less than three Hours, but too late; for during that time she was seized with a violent Discharge. From the vast Quantity of Blood that was lost, the slow creeping Pulse she had, and the *Faintings* and *Convulsions* which had seized upon her, I declared it now impossible for her to live, how happy soever I might be in the Operation, should I attempt it; which yet, after this *Prognostic*, at the joint Request of herself, her Husband and Friends, I could not well refuse; nor indeed could I otherwise have answered it to my own Conscience. The *Os Tincæ* was fully dilated, and the Child but small; so that without the least Difficulty or Resistance, I took the Child by the *Feet*, delivered her in less than one Minute, from the time of my approaching her Bed-Side, of both Child and *After-Birth*, which lay wholly separated, and the Child consequently

quently dead. I indeed expected her Death every Moment, but she lived two Hours, and then expired. It is very plain, this unhappy, wilful Lady was lost by not being delivered sooner: And as *Flooding* is a Rock on which many of the Sex are cast away, I shall give a few more Instances, in order to warn them of the Danger.

CASE VIII.

A Woman who died by Flooding, in Labour.

I WAS once called to a Woman, who at the time of her Account fell into violent *Floodings*, with little or no Pains. When I came, she had lost a prodigious Quantity of Blood; and, the Mouth of the Womb being fully dilated, I introduced my Hand, and taking the Child by the *Feet*, delivered her in a few Minutes with great Ease, and without the Loss of any more Blood in the Operation. She had, notwithstanding, frequent *Faintings*, tho' all that could possibly be given to re-
pair

pair the Loss, and support her, as *Chicken-Broth*, *Sack-Whey*, proper Cordials, &c. were administered: But it all proved to no purpose, for in about six Hours time she expired.

C A S E IX.

Another Instance of the same.

SOON after this, I was called to another Woman, nearly in the same Case, whom I treated in like Manner; she too had *Faintings* every two or three Minutes to a very great Degree, and oftentimes indeed seemed quite gone. I confess, I wholly despaired of her Life, but being of a strong and healthy Constitution, she had the good Fortune to recover.

THOUGH I could find no Means of Saving the Woman mentioned in the foregoing Case, I thought it my Duty to try what could be done for this. Dr. *Mowbray*, who cautions the Young Practitioner against

against going headlong to Work in Cases of the greatest Danger, and would have him decline the Office, because if the Woman dies under his Hands, he may perhaps be blamed for the errand Midwife's Faults; or, at least, he will scarce avoid the Censure of the Ignorant and Malevolent *: adds however, that “ he would but seldom
 “ have Recourse to this Advice †, or follow it himself, notwithstanding the worst
 “ Consequences of the Case; since as long
 “ as there is Life, there is Hope; which,
 “ though never so little, he thinks himself
 “ obliged to do what both Art and Nature
 “ command; and rather in all Conditions
 “ of Life to attempt an uncertain Cure,
 “ than abandon the Distressed to certain
 “ Death, as some Politicians in Physical
 “ Affairs commonly do, who prize their
 “ vain Reputation above the Life of their
 “ Neighbour”. In this I heartily agree with him, having seen many Women re-

* Sect. V. Chap. XII. † Ibid.

cover, even when not the least Glimpse of *Hope* has appeared. After a proper *Prognostic*, I employ my best Endeavours; and where my Character was established, it suffered but little, if at all, even when they proved ineffectual. Indeed where my Reputation has not been so secure, when I have been called too late, or the Case would admit of no Relief, I have been loaded with malicious Reflections, and very foul Language by the Ignorant and Passionate, who will make no Allowance for Circumstances. This was once since I came to Town the only Reward I received for my Labour. The greatest Consolation I have, under this inhumane undeserved Treatment is, that the most considerable of the Profession are frequently obliged to sit down patiently with the same, after they have acted according to the Dictates of *Conscience*, and the Rules of *Art*, and faithfully discharged the Trust reposed in them. I am resolved, however, to prefer

prefer the least Prospect of saving the Lives of Persons, whom Providence directs to my Care, before any other Consideration. I lately knew an unhappy Instance of the fatal Effects attending an injudicious Fondness of *Reputation*, and a mean Fear of incurring the Displeasure of such as judge only by their *Passions* and *Prejudices*. A fine young Lady, in Labour with her first Child, was seized with a *Flooding*, and the *Arm* of the Infant presented itself. She immediately sent for a *Physician*, who had lately taken upon him to practise *Midwifery*; but was so little acquainted with the Art, that he neglected the only thing necessary in that Case, *viz.* a speedy Delivery, by turning the Child; and employed *restringent* or *styptic* Medicines. After some Hours, another Gentleman was called in, who had the Advantage of longer Practice, and a good Character. The Lady was now very much weakened; and the Artist, apprehensive of her expiring

piring under his Hands, or immediately after Delivery, which indeed but too often happens, would make no Attempt, but abandoned her to her approaching *Fate*. She lived several Hours after, and then died; the *Hæmorrhage* continuing. I am persuaded it will be allowed by the best Judges that, had she been immediately delivered, her *Life* might have been saved. This happened at a considerable Town in *Suffolk*, about twenty Miles from *Ipswich*. As I have no Design of establishing my own Character on the Ruins of that of another Man, I forbear being more particular. I hope the two Gentlemen concerned in this *tragical* Case will make a proper Use of this Hint. I received the Account from a worthy Matron, who was present during the whole Time.

CASE X.

A Woman who died by Flooding, three Weeks before her Account.

A WOMAN, who had spoken to me to attend her, was taken within three Weeks of her Time with a small Discharge of *Blood* from the Womb. Upon this (as I afterwards heard) she sent for one of her Acquaintance, who being ignorant of the Case, persuaded her that there was no Danger. A while after she was attacked with a second Discharge, at length with a third, and then I was sent for. I found her extremely weak, and still *Flooding*, and was only told that she was taken so that Day, and that I was immediately called in. I declared that nothing could possibly save her Life but by delivering her; and was indeed in hopes that *That* would. The Mouth of the Womb being wholly relaxed and dilated, I took the Child by the *Feet*, and delivered her with much Ease, in two or three
G Minutes,

Minutes; but the Moment she was delivered, she expired. I then began to suspect that there had been some Concealment; and taxing those who were about her with it, they readily confessed there was a much larger Quantity of Blood discharged that Day, than what they had informed me of, as likewise for several Days before they sent for me; ignorantly thinking, because she had very little *Pain*, that she was not in Labour, and that she therefore stood in need of no Assistance. But this Folly was paid for at the Expence of the poor Woman's Life.

C A S E X I.

A Gentlewoman who died by Flooding, thro' the Ignorance and Obstinacy of her Midwife.

A POOR unhappy Gentlewoman, Daughter to a worthy Clergyman eighteen Miles distant from me, sent to me in a Case of *Flooding*. By the Account I received, I told her Brother (who came

came for me) that she was probably, by that time, dead. Accordingly, when I arrived, I was told that the unfortunate Lady had been dead for some Hours, and that she expired a little after the Messenger set out for me.

A LITTLE before the time of her Account, it seems, she was taken with a sudden and violent *Flooding*, with little *Pain*: Her Midwife told her she must wait for the Force of *Nature*, but sent to one for Advice, who, after the Loss of such a prodigious Quantity of Blood as she had sustained, imprudently ordered her to lose *ten* or *twelve* Ounces more at the Arm. Being now flattered with a small Cessation of the *Flux*, and ignorant of the Case, they waited for *Pain*, which was not then to be hoped for, but expected not *Death*, which to a judicious Person must have seemed unavoidable. One of her Friends indeed had more Knowledge than the rest, and was of Opinion that she ought to be de-

G 2

livered;

livered; but the Midwife resisted, and said, *That she never yet had forced a Labour, and that she would not begin then;* terrifying the unhappy Sufferer by telling her, that if she was delivered, she would certainly die. Thus were they infatuated, and the only Means prevented, by which she could possibly have been saved. In this Condition she lay all Night, and the next Morning (which was the time I was sent for) the Flux returned; they had recourse a second time to their Adviser, who rashly order'd her to lose more Blood at the Arm. This was agreed to by some Women about her, and opposed by others; but whilst the Matter was in debate, the unfortunate Mother fell into *Faintings* and *Convulsions*, and so expired; there happening a little before her Death an Expulsion of the *Placenta*. Thus was this poor Lady lost, in the very *Blom* of *Life*, through the *Ignorance* and *Obstinacy* of her Midwife.

CASE XII.

A Gentlewoman seized with dangerous Floodings just after Delivery, how preserved.

I WAS sent for to a Gentlewoman, who desir'd me to attend in the House, in order to be consulted by the *Midwife*; or, if the Case should require it, to deliver her myself. When I came, I found her in small Pain, and attended by a very good *Midwife*, one of known Judgment and Modesty. By this Person I was informed that the *Os Tincæ* began to open a little, whilst there were several Cloths already stained, though not to such a Degree as to be called *Flooding*; though that was much to be feared, for this Symptom appearing early in Labour, generally threatens it. I immediately propos'd the calling in the late learned Sir RICHARD BLACKMORE, who was Physician to the Family, and

lived very near, and one to whom I had the Honour of being well known. This was agreed to, and Sir *Richard* was with us in about an Hour's time; during which, I order'd my Patient to be kept cool, and gave her *Acids* and other proper Medicines in Red-wine and Water. By Sir *Richard*'s Prescription the *Flux* abated, and the Pains increasing, Labour came on early in the Morning. The Midwife again informed me that the Posture of the Child was exactly right, the Mouth of the Womb fully dilated, and the *Waters* for some time broke, the Pains being very true and strong; but added, that the *Head* of the Child fell no lower than it had been for some Hours before. She then desired I would take her Seat, which I did, and found all things as above mentioned. I sat for above half an Hour, hoping for, and expecting a natural Birth; but finding at length that *Nature* was not able of herself to perform it, I had recourse to
Art,

Art, and so turned the Child with great Safety in a few Minutes. This Lady was of a *Plethoric* Habit, and having been much heated by long Labour and great Pain, together with several warm and *Cardiac* Medicines (which, as the Posture of the Child was right, were given her in hopes that Nature might have done the Work herself) in about an Hour after her Delivery, when we thought all was well, and I just about to take my Leave, she fell into the most violent *Flooding* I ever saw. I was obliged immediately to cover her Body with Cloths dipped in *Oxycrate*, changing them as they grew warm; and this for above half an Hour together: by which means the *Flux* at first was a little abated, and at length stopped, whilst we gave her several Draughts of cool and *Acid* Liquors to drink. Sir *Richard*, at her being seized with this dreadful Symptom, was again sent for, and happened to come in, just as the *Flux* was so far

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stayed,

stayed, as to allow of taking away the wet Cloths, and laying her dry. She was so excessively cold, and her Pulse so low from the vast Loss of Blood, that Sir *Richard* thought she was dying. But forcing down some warm Suppings as well as *Cordial* Medicines ordered by the Doctor, she was quickly able to bear warming without a Return of the *Hæmorrhage*. By this Method she soon revived, and is still living. Sir *Richard* was pleased to say, that I had steered exactly between the two *Extremes*: that he should never have seen the Lady alive with less cool Applications; and at the same time that she could not possibly have lived with a longer Continuance of them. This Method may perhaps at first sight be looked upon, by some, as too harsh and desperate; but it will, I presume, be softened in my Reader's Opinion, when it is considered that certain *Death* would in a few Minutes have exhibited a much more dismal Scene.

CASE

CASE XIII.

A Woman taken with Flooding in the third Month of a false Conception.

A WOMAN, who supposed herself to be three Months gone with Child, was taken with a *Flooding*. When I came to her I found the *Os Tincae* so far opened as to allow of two Fingers, and a Substance pressing down, especially in her Pains, which were of no great Force. I soon introduc'd a third Finger, and by degrees so far dilated the Mouth of the Womb as to pass all my Fingers behind the Substance, so as to command it; and taking the Advantage of a Pain, which was now stronger from the *Stimulus* occasioned by the Irritation of my Fingers, I found it to be a firm fleshy Substance, and so happily rid her of a *False Conception*.

I COULD

I COULD here give many Instances of this kind, as well as of young Miscarriages, in which the Assistance given, and Method to be taken, are pretty much the same. When there is no *Flooding* or considerable Loss of *Blood*, Nature may be allowed her own time; but when the Discharge is great, as before mentioned, as speedy a Delivery as possible is required, whilst the *Flux* is to be restrained by proper Medicines, and cooling Applications.

C A S E XIV.

Of the Vagina coming down with the Head of the Child.

I WAS called to a Woman where, as soon as her Pains had any considerable degree of Strength, the *Vagina* came down with the *Head* of the Child, hanging far out of the Body. This by an ignorant Midwife, who was first with her, was taken for a *Water*, and accordingly

cordingly she had scratched and endeavoured to break the *Membranes*, as she foolishly thought the Part bearing down to be. A second Midwife was thereupon called, who immediately knew what it was, and attempted to re-place it and keep it up; but all in vain. The *Head* of the Child would not advance, and continued still to keep the *Vagina* before it, and, at every Pain, thrust it quite out of the Body. When I came, having first laid her Shoulders low, with her Hips raised, I returned the Part, and at the same time delivered her with much Ease of a living Child, in about the Space of two Minutes.

CASE XV.

A Child advancing with its Feet, but stopping at the Head, how extracted.

I WAS sent for to a Woman, where the Child presented with the *Feet*; the Midwife had gotten all but the
Head,

Head, which stuck fast, and had so done for four Hours. I immediately introduced my Hand, so as to pass two Fingers into the Infant's *Mouth*, by which, pulling gently at the *Neck* with the other Hand, and moving the Head tenderly to and fro, I delivered her with Ease and Safety.

C A S E XVI.

A Child extracted with the Forceps.

I WAS sent for to a Woman in Labour, where the Child came right, with the *Head* so far advanced, and so low in the *Vagina*, that the Midwife had expected it every Pain for some Hours. The Pains came pretty thick and strong, but began at length to abate, the poor Woman being much weaken'd and fatigued. Here I introduced the *Forceps*, as I have before directed, and so delivered her of a Son, who, with his Mother, is now living.

C A S E

CASE XVII.

A Child extracted with the Fillet.

SOON after, I was called to a Woman where the Case was nearly the same ; but she being much terrified at the Thought or Name of an *Instrument*, I promised not to make use of one. Here I only passed a *Fillet* over the *Head*, and thereby delivered her in a few Minutes of a living Child. This Method of extracting with the *Fillet* is an Art known but to very few ; and I shall only observe farther, that it is not always practicable, even when the Head is far advanced : Nor should it indeed be ever attempted, but by a very skilful Operator.

CASE

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CASE XVIII.

Two Women deliver'd of Twins.

I WAS sent for *five and twenty* Miles distance to a Woman who had been delivered of one Child, *eighteen* Hours before; by passing my Hand, I delivered her of another, which had been long dead, and a double *Placenta*. I have likewise been called to a Woman, who had one Child born *twenty four* Hours before my Arrival: When I came, I delivered her of another living one, and of two distinct *Placentæ*. By the way, I have very often found the *Placentæ* distinct with *Twins*; tho' for the generality they are joined, and make but one *Cake*, each Child being contained in a separate *Membrane* or *Partition*.

CASE

CASE XIX.

A Woman delivered of Three Abortive Children.

I WAS once called in to a Woman, who had *two* Abortive Children born before I came to her; I delivered her of a *third*, and each had its different *Placenta*. There was nothing in the least particular in this Case, but the Mother having *Three*, and one of them living for the Space of twenty-four Hours, tho' she was but *six* Months gone with Child.

CASE XX.

Of an Infant, whose Under-Jaw stuck upon the Os Pubis.

I WAS desired to attend a Gentlewoman, whose Labour had hitherto been natural and free from bad Symptoms. The Pains were come to a good Degree of Strength, infomuch that the Midwife expected a few more would have given her the *Head* of the Child; but

but after some Expectation, it made no farther Advance, nor could it come any lower. I had been in waiting for a whole Hour before the Midwife would resign her Seat, which at last, with much Entreaty, she did; when slipping my Fingers by the *Head*, I perceived that the Face of the Child lay sideways, and the *Under-jaw* hung upon the *Os Pubis*. This with my Finger I released, and drew back my Hand, telling the Midwife exactly how the Case stood, and that a few Pains more would answer. Accordingly, the second or third Pain gave us a living Child.

C A S E XXI.

An Infant with its Face towards the Os Pubis, extracted in that Posture.

I WAS called to a Gentlewoman, whose Labour came on in a natural Manner; the Child presented with its *Head*; but not falling readily down into the *Vagina*, which I had reason to expect from

from the Violence of the Pains, I was allowed to make a proper Enquiry, and found the *Face* lying towards the *Os Pubis*. I encouraged her Pain as much as I could, and gave her the best Assistance in a common way. Her Labour indeed was hard and tedious; but as I hoped for a small Advance from every Pain, she was at length happily and safely delivered, with the Child in that Posture.

C A S E XXII.

A Child with its Face towards the Os Pubis, extracted by Turning.

A LADY of Distinction sent for me, whose Case in many Circumstances was like the former. The *Face* came towards the *Os Pubis*; but the *Head* being directed wholly against the *Bone*, it did not, in any of the Pains (which were very strong) fall down any lower, but remained in the same Situation. After a sufficient Trial in different Postures, without any Advantage, I declared that

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there must be another Method taken, and that she must be delivered by *Art*. In this I had the joint Concurrence of another of the same Profession, who was called in upon this Occasion. The Lady now wholly resigning herself to my Care, I put her in a proper Posture (often mentioned in this Book) and by *Turning*, delivered her safely, in about two Minutes, of a living Child.

C A S E XXIII.

An Infant extracted with one Part of the Forceps only.

A LADY of my Acquaintance was in Labour, where the Child had lain very low for the Space of twenty-four Hours, in a natural Posture. After two Midwives had long attended, and found their Endeavours of no Service, and the Pains were gone off, I was sent for. Here I only passed one Part of the *Forceps* over the Head, and taking the Advantage

vantage of the first Pain, delivered her by pressing the *Head* down towards the *Os Sacrum*; but in such a manner as to avoid as much as possible, any Pressure on the Mother.

CASE XXIV.

A Child lying loose in the Womb, and presenting with its Head, turned, and extracted.

I WAS sent for to a Woman who fell into Labour, in a kind and natural way, with very strong Pains for *six* or *eight* Hours together. When I came, I found the *Os Tincæ* fully dilated, and a very large *Water* collected, and bearing in her Pains quite out of her Body. I immediately broke the *Membranes* (which I did by penetrating them with my *Tent-Probe*) from whence came a considerable Quantity of *Water*. The Child lay loose in the Womb, in no fixt Posture, though it seemed, if any

thing, to offer the *Head*; but there was no reason now to put her upon a fresh Labour, since I found it was an easy matter to deliver her; which I accordingly did, by taking the Child by the *Feet*, and bringing it forth immediately. The Child was born in full Strength, lying very easy in the Womb, and in no wise a Sufferer by Pressure in the Labour. Here the only Hindrance, or what prevented a very good and quick Delivery, appeared to be the uncommon Thickness and Strength of the *Membranes*; which is what I have several times met with.

C A S E XXV.

Three Children presenting with their Arms, turned and extracted.

I DELIVERED a Woman *three* times successively, where the *Waters* gathering, and the Pains increasing to a proper Degree, the *Membranes* broke, and thrust out one of the Child's *Arms*.
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The *Passages* and *Pelvis* were so large, that I found no Difficulty in taking the Child by the *Feet*, and so delivered her in less than a Minute each time. The two last Children are now living; but the *first* had been dead some time before I was sent for. The last time (as I had before desired she would) she called me in as soon as she perceived herself to be in Labour; I found the Mouth of the Womb relaxed, and open enough to receive my Hand: I then broke the *Membranes*, and was immediately saluted with the Infant's *Hand*, but chose his *Feet* rather at that time, and so delivered her directly. I may here perhaps, to some Persons, appear to have shewn much *Haste*; but in answer to this, I must observe, that the Woman was of so happy a Make, that even in her *first* Labour, when the *Waters* had been long lost, and the Parts more compressed and streighten'd, when the Child's *Arm* had been for

some time out of the Body, and the Mother much spent, she was delivered with much Ease and Safety : How much more Reason then had I to expect the same, with the Room and other Advantages I now had ? Besides (as I really found it) it was certain that this Child would present as the rest did : But in case it had been otherwise, no Delivery could possibly, in such a Subject, have been more safe and easy than this was ; for the poor Woman, who in her former Labour had been much weakened by Pain, and the fruitless Endeavours of the Midwife, who pulled with great Force at the Child's Arm, was now as well, and as strong at the Tenth Day, as before at the Month's End.

C A S E

CASE XXVI.

*Two Children extracted by the Feet after
the Membranes were broke.*

I WAS sent for to a Woman, where the *Membranes* of two Children were broke; for in passing my Hand, the Infants were in such a Position, that I found a Number of *Hands* and *Feet*. The *Waters* had been so long lost, and the Contraction of the Parts so great, that I had some Difficulty, not in distinguishing a *Foot* from a *Hand*, but in pairing the *Legs*; which, when by passing my Hand up to the *Groin*, I had done, I brought the first Child away by the *Feet*; and afterwards the Second, but with greater Ease, in the same manner: then I gently separated a large double *Placenta* (which adhered a little more than usual) and so drew it away by the two *Navel-Strings*.

CASE XXVII.

*A Woman delivered of a dead Fœtus
after the Birth of a living Child.*

A LARGE Child was born, by natural Pains, in about two Hours after the Mother was taken in Labour: I attended her, and introducing my Hand (as my common Practice is) into the *Uterus*, the Moment the Infant was born, in order to receive the *Placenta*, I found another Child: I then delivered her of a *decayed* Child, about the Bigness of a *Fœtus* in the *Sixth* Month, and of two distinct *Placentæ*. Now, had an ignorant Midwife been concerned in this Case, who had only taken the *first* Child and *After-Birth*, the *last* would probably have been left behind, and so either violent *Floodings*, or a bad *Fever* would have ensued; and, as the Woman was before very ill, and extremely weak, it would very likely have cost Her her Life,

CASE

CASE XXVIII.

A Head separated and left behind in the Womb, extracted with the Crotchet.

A CHILD, presenting with its *Feet*, happened to stick at the *Head*, and, the Midwife pulling hard, the Neck wholly separated from the Body, and the Head was left behind. I immediately passed my Left Hand into the *Womb*, and taking the *Head* in the Hollow of my Hand, I carefully introduced the *Crotchet*, keeping the Point all the way against my *Arm*, and fixed it in the Head (which being of a globular Figure, and very slippery, is not to be done without Difficulty) and so drew it away, diligently guarding the Point of the *Hook*, lest it should slip and wound the Woman. However large the *Head* happens to be, the *Crotchet*, with due Care, will destroy its Texture, and extract it; but the *Knife*, which

Mauriceau

Mauriceau so much recommends *, is, I think, a very dangerous Instrument; nor ought it ever to be made use of on this Occasion.

DOCTOR *Mowbray*, who professes to perform every thing without the use of an *Instrument*, proposes in this Case to proceed in the following Manner †. “ I would, says that Gentleman, convey
“ my Hand into the Womb, and put
“ one or two of its Fingers into the
“ Mouth of the Head, placing my Thumb
“ under the Chin; for by thus taking
“ hold of it by the Jaw, I would ex-
“ tract it gently, and that with the
“ greatest Ease and Safety to the Pa-
“ tient.” But, with his Leave, I must take the Liberty of denying that the *Head* can be thus drawn away, unless the Woman is very large, or the Child very small; for the *Jaw* will not bear

* Pag. 189.

† Sect. 5. Chap. XXVI.

the Force required in this way of Proceeding.

CASE XXIX.

A Woman killed by an Inversion of the Uterus.

I WAS, in the greatest Haste, sent for to a Woman Six Miles distant from me; to whom I went with all possible Speed, but found on my Arrival, that she had been dead near half an Hour. I conjectured she had died by *Flooding*; but, upon asking the Question, was answered in the Negative. The Midwife told me, that the *After-Birth* stuck so fast in one Part, that she was not able with all her Strength to take it from her, though she had gained most of it. Upon this I desired the Favour of seeing the Corps, which being granted, I found, to my great Surprize, that the *Uterus* was inverted, and entirely out of the Body, hanging down between the Thighs,

Thighs, with the *Placenta* adhering to its *Fundus*, which I separated before the Midwife, and several Matrons there present, and convinced them all of the dismal Accident. This Woman, it seems, had a very good and easy delivery of the Child; but that born, the Midwife pulled hard at the *String*, and so brought down the *Uterus*, which as soon as she could take any hold of, she did: And then pulling with fresh Violence, and not being deterred by the loudest Cries, the poor miserable Woman in a few Minutes fell into strong *Convulsions* and *Deliquiums*, and so expired. Thus was a young healthy Mother cut off in the Bloom of Life, and cast into the cold *Arms of Death*, just as she was about to clasp her *First-born* in her own.

C A S E

CASE XXX.

*Of three Women who had their Vaginae
torn and broken through.*

I HAVE been called to three Women, where, upon searching, I found the *Vagina* quite broken through in the back Part, by the Midwife's rudely thrusting up her Hand, in order to come at the Opening of the Womb, which in all these Subjects happened to lie very forwards, towards, and indeed, in some measure, under the *Os Pubis*. One of these died immediately; the other a few Days after; but the *Third*, where a Finger only, or two at most had gone through the *Vagina*, recovered, contrary to my Expectation; and has since been safely delivered of another Child, and is, with both her Children, now living. I was sent for to this Person by the Lady *Lucking*, whose Daughter I had the Honour of waiting on in
her

her Pains, and had a little before happily delivered.

CASE XXXI.

An expected Abortion with threatening Symptoms.

BEING some Years past upon Business at *Ipswich*, I was called by that very ingenious Surgeon the late Mr. *White* (a Person well known to several of the principal of the Profession, and to whose worthy Father I had the Pleasure and Advantage of serving an *Apprenticeship*) to a Lady in that Town, who was about *four* Months gone with Child, and seized, among other Symptoms of Miscarriage, with a sort of *Flooding*. I gave her *Astringents*, *Acids*, and several cooling Medicines, together with *Laudanum Liquidum*, which abated the *Flux*; the *Os Tincæ* not being yet farther dilated than to receive *one* Finger. This Method was continued, with my Attendance, by Mr. *White's* Desire, for about
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the Space of forty-eight Hours; at which time she fell into true Pains, and was delivered with Safety.

CASE XXXII.

Of a Lady, who died by Flooding in Labour.

I WAS sent for, many Years past, by the worthy and learned Dr. *Beeston* and Mr. *White* above-mentioned, to the Wife of a Captain of a Ship at *Ipswich*; but by *Flooding* in Labour, she had the Misfortune to die undelivered before I arrived. This Instance, however, may help to shew the Danger of *Floodings*, which I have before taken Notice of, and the Necessity of calling in timely Assistance.

CASE XXXIII.

A dead Infant turned and extracted.

I WAS sent for, to a Gentlewoman that kept a Tavern in *Ipswich*, twenty-five Miles distant from me. The Child

Child was *dead* in a wrong Posture, and the Mother *flooded*. She was attended by no less than two Women Midwives, and a *Surgeon*, just then set out in the Profession. After they had all used their Endeavours to little or no purpose, I was called in: When I came, I found the Woman in almost continual *Faintings*, and not able to bear the least Stirring or Alteration of Posture. I passed my Hand just as she happened to lie; and the Parts being very much relaxed through extreme Weakness, I without the least Difficulty took the dead Infant by the *Feet*, and delivered her of that, and the already-separated *Placenta*, in about a Minute's Time. I left her under the Management of Dr. *Beefton*, by whose extraordinary Care and Judgment, she lived *six* or *seven* Days; but was then, notwithstanding there was the greatest Hopes of her Recovery, seized with a violent *Diarrhœa*, which, in spite of all the

the Assistance that could be given, carried her off in a few Hours.

CASE XXXIV.

*An extraordinary Instance of a Woman
who was delivered at the Anus.*

IN 1723, I was called to the Wife of one *Peter Hill*, in the Parish of *Stoke*, by *Nayland* in *Suffolk*. The poor unhappy Woman had for *seven* or *eight* Days been troubled with violent Pains in her *Back*, and the lower Parts of the *Abdomen*. She having no Notion or Suspicion of her being really with Child, from a great Imperfection of Body, which she was very conscious of, several Persons of an inferior Class in the Practice of *Physick* were called in; by these her Case was at one time taken for the *Stone*, at another for the *Cholic*, &c. Her Pains were *Periodical*, like those in common Labours, especially for the last *two* or *three* Days. At length two Midwives were called in; but they being con-

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founded, and at a loss (as well they might) I was sent for. Upon my coming, and making the necessary Enquiry (not being able to get the least Information from the Midwives) I confess, I myself was greatly surprized, and knew not by the *Touch* what to make of it. Having then desired a numerous Company, that was gathered together on this Occasion, to go into another Apartment, I called for a *Candle*, and in the Presence of the two Midwives, and three or four other Matrons, who were permitted to stay, I took in the Assistance of my *Sight*; but even that was too little to come at a Certainty. The *Os Pubis* had no *Covering*, *Fat*, or any Thing else that was natural, except the common *Teguments*, as they lie upon any other Part of the Body. Where the *Rima Magna* should have been, there was only the Appearance of a small *Slit*, or *Aperture* through the *Teguments*, and that without any Thickness or Protuberance, like that

that of the true and real *Labia*: Nor was there the least Sign of the *Clitoris* or *Nymphæ* to be seen or felt. This imperfect *Vagina*, or rather *Slit*, before-mentioned, was just big enough to receive one Finger, with which I endeavoured to find out the *Mouth* of the *Womb*, but in vain; for on the *Hinder-part*, or towards the *Os Sacrum*, there was no Passage at all, whilst Forwards, and under the *Os Pubis*, it admitted my Finger without much Resistance. At this Part (which was also very dry) there was not the least *Force*, *Pain*, or *Swelling*; whilst Backwards, at the *Anus*, there were all. The *Anus* was dilated to a great Degree (even enough to receive my Hand) tho' very thick and much swelled quite round. In that Part too, there was a large *Tumour* which bore hard down, and even out of the Body, at every Pain.

THERE being no other possible way to attempt Relief, whatever the Matter of this *Tumour* might be, I proposed to make an Incision into it, which to the Touch was like that of a large *Abcess*.

ACCORDINGLY, with the Consent and Approbation of all the Woman's Friends, and at her own earnest Request and Desire (who declared that if she was sure she should live but an Hour, she would gladly purchase it, tho' at a dearer Rate than what was mentioned) I made an *Aperture* with my large *Lancet*, into the *Vagina* through that Part of the *Intestine* which bore out of the Body, and immediately passing one Finger, I felt the *Os Uteri* dilated, and the Child's *Head* pressing to be born. I made the Midwives (one of which, Mrs. *Smith* by Name, was a very experienced Person) see and feel how all things were; then dilating the Orifice I had made in the
Intestine

Intestine and *Vagina*, with my Fingers, I through that delivered her of a Child at the *Anus*, which we judged to be in about the *sixth* or *seventh* Month, with its *Placenta*. The unfortunate Woman being much, and indeed quite spent, before I was called in, I could not possibly entertain any Hopes of her Life; and accordingly, she lived *two* or *three* Days, and then expired.

As to the Truth of this Account, however strange and unnatural it may appear to some, there are many now living who are ready to attest it: And I am very much of Opinion, that she might have been saved, had the Operation been performed sooner.

I FIND I am not the only Person, who have met with this extraordinary Manner of Birth; for Mr. *Giffard's* Hundred and fifty seventh Case is exactly the same with that here set down.

C A S E XXXV.

*Of a Woman, who miscarried through a
Scirrhus in the Womb.*

ON the 17th of *October* 1725, I was called to a poor Woman, in order to deliver her of a *second* Child. The Midwife told me upon meeting, that she had taken away one *Abortive* Infant *two* Days before, of about *six* or *seven* Inches in length; but that she had left the *After-Birth*, till the second Child should be born, the *Head* of which, she said, lay then in the Passage, but was much larger than that of the *Fœtus* she had already taken,

I FOUND the Mouth of the Womb wide enough to receive three Fingers, with which I easily drew away the *Placenta*, that was left in the *Uterus*. The Womb, methought, felt very *thick* and *hard*, and the Cavity of it seemed to be
close

close filled up with the *Cake*. By feeling, or rather compressing her Body on the Outside, I found a large hard Substance; I then put two Fingers into the *Anus*, and my Thumb into the *Vagina*, and thus grasped something, in form not unlike the Head and Neck of a Child; I declared that nothing remained in the Womb; but what to make of this hard and solid Tumour, unless it were a *Scirrhus*, I could not well tell. The Woman had been long before ill of a *Consumptive* Disorder, and being now much weakened and exhausted by her Miscarriage (in which she had lost a great Quantity of *Blood*) and *two* Days being spent with Torment, in waiting for another Child, she was brought so low, that she expired in about *three* Days afterwards. When, at my Request, being allowed to inspect the *Corps*, I found this hard Substance, as I had before suspected, to be a true *Scirrhus* of the Womb, in the Form already described, and weigh-

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ing (as near as I could guess) *four* or *five* Pounds.

CASE XXXVI.

Of a Woman who had spurious Pains, which were put off for the Space of eight Days, when she was happily delivered of Twins.

A WOMAN, at or near the Time she expected to fall in Labour, and very big, was seized with violent Pains. She sent for her *Midwife*, who attended her, telling her from time to time that she judged it her *Labour*, and that it would in her Opinion be soon over. But her Pains at length abated, and upon this I was sent for. When I came, judging by the Account that was given me (without any *Manual Enquiry*, which was not allowed) that the Pains were imperfect, and rather of a *spurious* sort, I only ordered her a few *composing* Medicines, and advised her to keep her self quiet,

quiet, and endeavour, as much as possible, to put off the Thoughts of being yet in *Labour*. Her Pains by this Means went wholly off, *i. e.* she was as free from them as she had been for some Weeks past. Thus she continued to the *eighth* Day from my being first called to her, at which time she was taken with *genuine* Pains, which soon rising to a considerable Degree of Strength, I was again called in (for she now chose to depend wholly on my Assistance.) I found the *Os Tincæ* fairly dilated, a large *Water* gathered, and the *Head* of the Child directed a little against the *Os Pubis*; so that, not falling down after many strong Pains, I chose to break the *Membranes*, which I judged were thicker than ordinary, by reason of their not bursting by the Force of the Mother's *Throws*. This I did by passing a pointed *Probe* between my Fingers, with which in the midst of a Pain, I penetrated the *Membranes*: There presently followed a large Discharge

charge of *Water* ; and upon the very next *Throw*, with the Assistance of my Finger only, I brought down the *Head* into the *Vagina*, and then in a few Minutes more delivered her. Immediately passing my Hand, I found (as I had reason to expect from her extraordinary Bigness) another Child. I broke through the *Membranes*, and in one Minute safely delivered her of that also : Both which might have been lost, with Danger of the Mother's Life, had her Labour been unskilfully encouraged.

C A S E XXXVII.

Of the Navel-String coming down before the Head of the Child.

SOME Years past I was called to a Lady, whom I had the Honour to deliver of several Children before : The Posture of the Child was natural, and the *Head* advanced a little at every Pain ; but Part of the *Navel-String* was thrust out of the Body before the *Head*. This,

as much as possible, I returned with my Finger, and endeavoured to keep it up; otherwise the cold *Air* would in all probability (though the Labour was quick) have so far stagnated the Blood in its Passage through the *Umbilical Arteries*, that the Child might have died before it could have been born, and before the Air could have set its *Lungs* in Play.

I COULD give a great number of Instances of this sort, where the *Navel-String* came down before the *Head* of the Infant; but I take one to be sufficient: And this may serve as a *general* Direction how to proceed in the like Case.

CASE

CASE XXXVIII.

Of a Child who died in the Birth through a bad Posture, and the unfortunate Make of the Mother.

I WAS many Years since sent for to a Gentlewoman, who had been long in Labour under the Hands of two Midwives. I found (as they had told me) that the Child presented with its *Head*; but it did not fall down by very strong Pains, which had been long upon her before I was sent for, and I was then *fifteen* Miles distant. I perceived I had a *living* Child to deal with, and endeavoured as much as possible to save it, but to no purpose; for it lay with its *Face* towards the *Os Pubis*, and in a bad Posture for *Turning*: Which, together with some great Disadvantages in the *Make* of the Mother, caused it to die in the *Birth*. This Delivery was performed with great Difficulty, and I was obliged to

to give the poor Woman much Pain, and to be longer about the Operation than I usually am; which, together with what was previous to this, induced me to despair of her Life. However, I immediately (as my constant Custom is in Cases of the least Danger) called in that great and worthy *Physician*, in whom the Country was happy, the late Dr. *Shapcote*, by whose extraordinary Care and Judgment the Lady, contrary to all Expectation, recovered perfect Health, and has had several Children since, which are now living.

AND here I cannot forbear a small Offering to the Shrine of that truly learned Man, with whom I had the Honour and Advantage of a friendly Converse, for above the Space of twenty Years; and one to whom, under Providence, many of my Friends and Acquaintance now living, stand indebted for their Lives. But as my Pen is no ways equal to such
a Task,

a Task, I shall desist from it, and be content to admire in a grateful Silence, one whom I am conscious I can never sufficiently praise.

CASE XXXIX.

Of an Abortive Fœtus of between three and four Months, that had the Navel-String twisted twice round its Neck.

I WAS lately called to a Woman, who, being between *three* and *four* Months gone with Child, was seized with a sudden Discharge of Blood from the Womb. I found that the *Os Tincæ* would only receive one Finger, and consequently could give her no Assistance by the Hand. But by some *Astringent* Medicines which I ordered her (for she was a very poor Woman, and not able to be at the Expence of a *Physician*) and by keeping her very quiet, several Days passed without any considerable Loss of Blood; and then her Pains coming on briskly, she was
with

with the Assistance of her Midwife delivered of a *Fætus*, and its *Placenta* together, the Child lying in the *Membranes*, which were not broken. This indeed is pretty common; but there was one thing particularly remarkable in this Case, which was, that when I came to open the *Membranes*, I found the *Navel-String* twisted twice round the Neck of the *Fætus*: From whence it is highly probable, that these Convolutions of the *Umbilical Chord* are generally made very early, and when the *Fætus* is but small.

CASE XL.

Of a Woman who died in Labour, by a violent Retention of Urine.

ABOUT fifteen Years ago I was sent for, at fourteen Miles distance, to a Woman, who had been *two* Days in hard Labour; first under the Hand of one, and then of a second Midwife. Her *Husband*, who was the Person that came

came for me, gave me such a bad Account of her Case, that I had much Reason to fear my Assistance would come too late. I rode as hard as possibly I could; but yet found her dead. The Account the two Midwives gave me was, that the Child presented with the *Head*, and that they had all along flattered themselves that the Continuance of the Pains would at length have given them the Infant. They were embolden'd, it seems, to wait at this unreasonable Rate, because the Woman did not *flow*: But Nature being quite tired out by the long continued Torture, was forced to sink beneath the Weight. The Midwives added, that there was something in this Case, which in all their Practice they had never met with before, *viz.* That there seemed *two* distinct and large *Swellings* in the *Abdomen*. When I came to examine the *Corps*, I found it to be as they had declared, and that one of these *Swellings* lay above the other. At
my

my earnest Request, the *Husband* permitted me to open the Body; when I found one of the above-mentioned *Tumours* to be the *Womb* with the *Child* in it, and the other the *Bladder* prodigiously distended by the largest Quantity of Water I ever knew contained in a human *Bladder*. The Women then told me, that the Deceased had not voided one spoonful of *Urine* for several Days together, nor indeed from her first falling into Labour. The Infant lay in a right Posture, very low, and pressing upon the *Neck* of the *Bladder*, which was doubtless the Cause of this very great Retention of *Urine*. But what exquisite Misery must this poor unhappy Woman have undergone! Whereas if they had sent for an *Artist* in time, he might in a few Minutes, by passing the *Catheter*, have drawn off the *Water*, and so emptied the *Bladder*; and then with the *Forceps* or *Fillet*, have delivered her, and so snatched her from the Jaws of *Death*.

K

HERE

HERE I had a fair Opportunity of viewing the *Thickness* of the *Uterus*. Authors, I find, differ much on this Subject; some advancing That the Womb grows *thinner* as it extends; whilst others affirm that it *thickens* more and more, as the Woman approaches nearer to her Labour. For my part, I found the *Latter* true; for it was, at the *Fundus*, and indeed in every Part, as near as I could guess, *Half an Inch* thick. But I am well assured that it is not so in all Subjects; for in taking away the *After-Birth*, when it adheres to the *Uterus*, the *Hand* (as is necessary) *without* Side the Body, answering to that *within*, plainly discovers the Thickness of the intervening Parts: And I have oftentimes found it very *thin*, nay the Whole, with the external *Teguments*, &c. has not seemed to be near the Thickness here mentioned. But this will be made more plain in the following CASE.

CASE

CASE XLI.

Of a Woman, who died through Wilfulness in not being delivered; in whom the Womb, contrary to the Opinion of some Writers, was found very thin.

A MARRIED Woman, who had not for some Years cohabited with her Husband, had the Misfortune to prove with Child. When she found herself in Labour, she went privately into the Fields towards a Friend's House; and, as she afterwards confessed, lay there great part of a Day, with a Design, I suppose, either to *kill*, or leave the Infant behind her, for no Provision was found to be made for it: But the Posture the Child happen'd to lie in, did not favour her wicked Purpose. At Night therefore she returned to her Friends, deceitfully complaining of a violent *Cholic*, for which several Remedies were used, for the Space of *twenty-four* Hours, as near as I re-

K 2 member,

member, before I was sent for ; no body about her having the least Suspicion of her being with Child, though all were at a loss to know what was really her Case. Some supposed it to be an *Ulcer in the Womb*, from the great Quantity of *fætid* Matter that was discharged from the *Vagina*. But whilst this was in debate, I was judged a proper Person to be consulted, and was accordingly called in. When I came to make a proper Enquiry, I found (as from her Periodical Pains, the Bigness and Hardness of her Body, &c. I had reason to suspect) that she had actually a *Child* in her. The Mouth of the Womb being fully dilated, the *Anus* of the Child (for so it chanced to lie) answering to the *Os Tincæ*, immediately received my Finger. This I declared, as also that the Child had been for some time dead, as was plain from the *cadaverous* Smell, which was so great that I could hardly bear the Room, as also from the Discharge from the *Pudendum*.

dendum. She impudently denied she had used the *Means*, and affirmed she was not with Child. This soon gained Belief with her fond *Mother* and credulous Friends, who thereupon very unjustly reproached me, even to a Degree of Rudeness. I insisted upon what I had said, and begged that I might be allowed to endeavour the saving her Life by an immediate Delivery. But a Difference arising between the *Mother* and *Uncle*, at whose House she then was, and who would not suffer her, on account of the Disgrace, to lie-in there, they proposed to borrow a Gentleman's Coach in the Neighbourhood, and so carry her (in the present Condition) to her Mother's.

I HAD not *Rhetoric* enough to prevail with them to let me deliver her, tho' I remonstrated to them in the most moving manner I could, the Danger of delaying it, and the Inhumanity of forcing her out of the House; telling

them, that it was indeed a sort of wilful *Murder* they were going to commit upon the poor unhappy Wretch. But even this proved of no Effect; for neither she, nor her Friends would suffer me to sit down by her, or any way assist her; upon which, having first made a proper *Prognostic*, I was obliged to let them proceed as they should think fit. They promised however to send for me at Night, when she was arrived at her *Mother's*, which was about three or four Miles distant from the Place where she then was. I went home, and in my way called upon some of my Acquaintance, to whom I related the Case, big as it was with Folly and Inhumanity; telling them that she would certainly die before, or at Delivery; for she was far spent and very weak when I came first to her, and had, I believe, tho' she did not care to own it, lost much *Blood*. I went home, and expected a Call, resolving to command my Temper, and, if possible, to save

save her, as well as do my self Justice ; but heard nothing from them. Next Morning, unsent for, I called at the *Mother's*, but found no body at home ; then I went on to the *Uncle's*, whom I had the good Fortune to meet in my way thither : He informed me that she was dead ; which was no more than I expected. I then told him of the Barbarity that had been used in Regard to her, but took Care to say nothing particular that might ruffle him, because I was resolved, if I could, to open her, or take some other way to shew them at least Part of the Child. I well knew I should otherwise suffer in my Character ; for we have all of us our Enemies ready to wound us with *Slander* and *Detraction*, which is generally propagated with much Warmth and Eagerness. But to return : I asked the old Man and the rest of her Friends Leave to open the *Corps*, which, after much Entreaty, was granted : And then, just as I had told them, we found

a *Dead Child* much decayed, and lying in the Posture before mentioned.

HERE again I had an Opportunity of examining the *Thickness* of the *Womb*. In this Subject it was not more than (if so much as) half so thick as the former. But this, I presume, might in some measure be occasioned by the great Discharge she had sustained for the two or three last Days. However this be, I am, as I before observed, well assured, it is sometimes very *thin*, at least if compared to that which I at first spoke of: And this Uncertainty in the *Thickness* of the *Womb*, may probably be the Reason why Authors differ so much on this Head, every one speaking as he himself has happened to find it.

CASE

CASE XLII.

A Child extracted with the Hook.

I TWICE delivered a poor *deformed* Woman by *turning* the Children, which always stuck at the *Head*, and died in the Birth. Both these times, tho' with much Difficulty, I performed the Operation with my *Hand* only; but the third time, on account of the *Head's* being much larger, and the Texture of it more firm and *Offified* than ordinary, and sticking at that Part, I was forced to make use of the *Hook*: But, as I before observed, the Child was first dead. It is to be remarked, that neither of these Children fell into the Passage, tho' all of them presented with the *Head*: Indeed when the Mother is thus unhappily made, it is impossible they should; for all the Force of the Pains, and Compression of the Muscles in this Case only serve to direct the *Head* to a wrong Point; and the Child continues

nues so fixed in the *Pelvis*, that it cannot well fall down into the *Vagina*.

C A S E XLIII.

Another Instance of the same.

I N the Year 1714, I was called to another poor Woman, unhappily made for *Child-Bearing*. She had much Pain without any Advantage, the Child lying like that last mentioned. There was no other Method to be taken but that of *turning* the Child, in which I found no small Difficulty, even before I came to the greatest, *viz.* That of its sticking at the *Head*. Here again, I was forced (the Child being *dead*) to have recourse to the *Hook*: But these Cases are so uncommon, that I have not had Occasion to be concerned in them more than *four* or *five* times, in the Course of *five* and *twenty* Years Practice.

THO' I have in some Places of this TREATISE condemned the Use of the *Hook*, and shewn that a Child far advanced with its *Head*, is to be extracted with the *Forceps* or *Fillet*; yet I would not be thought to advance that it ought never to be employed; because there are some deformed Subjects, as the two last mentioned, in whom the Bones of the *Pelvis* have so bad a Structure, and the Space between the Protuberance frequently mentioned, and the *Os Pubis* is so very small, as to render it altogether impossible for the Head of a full-grown Child to be naturally brought away. In these Subjects, the Head cannot fall into the *Vagina* low enough to be taken hold of by the *Forceps* or *Fillet*; nor can it be turned without the greatest Difficulty; and even when it is turned, it will certainly stick at the *Head*. In this Case, it cannot be drawn away but by the *Hook*; which will break into its Texture, alter the

the Form of it, and so render it fit to pass through that Passage, which it could never do, if it were whole.

H E R E, if the Child be already *dead*, the Artift is free from that Anxiety and Torture of Mind, which *hooking it alive* would necessarily produce in him. But how far, when there seems to be no Hopes of saving the *Child's* Life, it may be eligible and adviseable to make free with it at first, in order to preserve the *Woman*, or render the Operation more easy to her, I must leave to the Judgment of the Person, who is so unhappy as to be employed in such a melancholy and unwelcome Office.

S O M E of my Brethren, I am well assured, frequently delay the Performance of this Operation till the poor *Mother's* Death discharges all farther Occasion for it. But how far this may be a right way of acting, I shall leave others to determine. Not

to administer whatever Service we are capable of giving, is certainly a very *fatal*, and if I may so say, a very *cruel* Tenderness.

As to *Monsters*, there can be no Rules given; for the *Operator* when this Case falls to his Lot, must act in it as his *Conscience* and *Judgment* shall happen to direct.

CASE XLIV.

The After-Birth retained, and extracted five Days after Delivery.

IN the Year 1711, I was called to a Woman *five Days* after her Delivery in whom the *Placenta* or *After-Birth* was left behind, and at that time retained. I found the Mouth of the Womb so much contracted as but just to allow of two Fingers; but by degrees I introduced a third, and at length my whole Hand.

Hand. I then perceived that the *Placenta* adhered to the *Uterus* in its whole Breadth; which was the Reason there had been no *Flooding*, and but few of the *Lochia*; which Retention had caused a very unkind sort of a *Fever*. I separated the *Placenta* from the *Uterus* gently with my Fingers, as I have before directed, and so brought it away in my Hand; and that without the Assistance of the *String* in the other, which was before broke off by the Midwife. By proper Medicines and Care the Woman, beyond all Hopes, recovered.

C A S E XLV.

The Placenta extracted three Hours after Delivery.

I WAS lately called to a Woman in *Eagle-Street*, two or three Hours after the Extraction of the Child, where the Midwife, trusting too much to the *String*,

String, had broken it off, and then the Womb closed upon the *Placenta*, which was so far separated as to occasion a great *Flooding*. Here I took the same Method as I did in the Case last mentioned; which is indeed the only one that can possibly be taken; but the *Os Tincæ* was so much contracted, that I feared she would have died under my Hands, or at least immediately after the Extraction, especially since she had already lost a great Quantity of *Blood*. But, by hastening the Operation as much as I well could, the *Flux* entirely stopped, after the *Cake* was brought away, and the Woman had the good Fortune to escape with her Life.

CASE

CASE XLVI.

*A firm, fleshy Substance taken from the
Womb six Weeks after Delivery.*

I WAS, about fifteen Years past, sent for to a Woman who was seized with a *Flooding* at the End of six Weeks after her Delivery. When I came to make a proper Enquiry, I found the Womb open enough to receive three Fingers, and a hard Substance bearing down. There was some Pain, or rather an Endeavour in Nature to cast out this superfluous Guest; but it was not of it self sufficient, and the Woman must undoubtedly have *flooded* to Death, without the Assistance of the *Hand*. By stretching out my Fingers far asunder, I dilated the Mouth of the Womb much more than at first I found it, and then brought away a firm fleshy Substance much in the Form of a *Turkey's Egg*, and nearly of the same Bigness. The
Woman

Woman was very weak; but by proper Management she recovered, and is, I think, living at this time

I could give many Instances of this kind; but shall confine my self to one only, where the Woman had been delivered by a Brother Practitioner. When I was called in, which was also at, or near *six* Weeks End after her Delivery, I found a Substance in the Womb, but not like that before described: For this looked like the *Cæse*, as it is vulgarly called, and seemed to be the *Placenta* of a *Fœtus* about *three* Months old. There was one Thing very remarkable in it, which was, that it appeared to be stuffed full of a *gritty, sandy* Matter, like *Gravel*. This I have, in a less Degree, often found in that Part of the *Placenta* which adhered to the *Womb*; the accounting for which odd Appearance I shall leave to the Learned in the *Faculty*. To return then: I cannot but observe here, that if

L. the

the *Hand* had been passed with either of these Women, as I have before directed *, nothing could have been left behind. From the Want of this Practice I have been frequently sent for, not only to Women in this Case, but likewise where a Child has remained in the Womb, when all was thought to be over. Thus Nature, relieved and quieted a little by the Birth of one Child, rests easy and contented, as it were, for the Space of a few Hours ; when the remaining Pains being falsely supposed nothing but *After-Pains*, all is imagined to be at an end ; till, more violent Complaints returning, or another *Water* breaking, the poor Mother suffers a fresh Alarm, and stands in need of fresh Assistance.

BUT in this Case there must necessarily be separate *Placentæ*, which, as I before observed, is very frequent. And where it is thus, the Midwife having

* Chap. III.

already extracted a perfect Child and a compleat *After-Birth*, erroneously thinks, without making any farther Enquiry, that this is all. But, to turn back to the last mentioned Case, I would here, if the Reader will pardon me the Digression, presume to recommend a Piece of Generosity and Good-nature, seldom practis'd amongst ourselves; and that is, not to take an unkind Advantage of a Slip or Accident that may happen to a Brother in his Practice: No Operator can always be right, at least not always successful; for the utmost Care and Judgment will not always succeed. It is to be supposed, that he with a good Intention uses his best Endeavours, because both his *Reputation* and *Interest* require it of him. Mankind in general seem to be directed in these Cases, by the *Mahometan* Principles of judging, rewarding and punishing wholly by *Success*. But we ought not by any means to wound the Reputation of a Brother,

by censuring any Accident that may befall him. It is a barbarous, and indeed, if we rightly consider it, a very impolitic way of proceeding; because, since we are all liable to *Errors*, the Favour may one Day or other happen to be repaid with *Interest*.

C A S E XLVII.

A Woman delivered of Twins; the first of which, presenting with its Head, and bearing upon the Os Pubis, was extracted by Turning.

IN October 1732, I was called to a poor Woman in *Butcher-hall Lane*, near *Newgate-street*. She had been long in strong Pain; the Child presented with its *Head*; but, bearing hard upon the *Os Pubis*, did not fall lower down. I put the Woman in a proper Posture, and turned the Child, taking it by the *Feet*: And finding upon Enquiry another Infant in the Womb, I immediately broke the *Membranes*, and in about

two Minutes, with very little Pain, delivered her of that likewise, both which, with the Mother are now living.

C A S E XLVIII.

A Child that died in the Passage.

SEPTEMBER 11th, 1733, I delivered a poor Woman in *Fulwood's Rents*. The Child presented with the *Head*; but lay high, and the Face towards the *Os Pubis*; and after much Pain, did not fall into the Passage. This Child I turned, and slipping my Hand over its Belly, found there the *Knees*, and of course the *Feet* close together; which I brought down into the *Vagina*; but the Child being large, I could not command both Feet, so as to bring them without the Body; but was forced to pass a *Fillet* upon the Lowest, and search again for the other. This Child stuck a little at the *Head*, and though not in the least hurt in its *Neck*, yet died in the Passage (by the Time I was forced to take) in spite of the utmost Care.

CASE XLIX.

A Child extracted with the Forceps.

DECEMBER 17th, 1733, I delivered a Gentlewoman at *Kensington* of a living Son. The Child presented the *Head*, with the *Face* towards the *Os Pubis*. The Pains were strong; by which the Child was forced pretty low. In this Case I delivered her with great Ease (in a few Minutes after my approaching the Bed) with the *Forceps*.

CASE L.

A Child saved where the Placenta offered.

FEBRUARY 6th, 1733, I delivered the Wife of a Tallow-chandler of a Son: She had *Floodings* without Pain. I turned the Child. This Person was taken three Weeks before with the Symptom afore-mentioned, which returned with Violence about twelve Hours before I was sent for, but with very little Pain. I found the

the Os *Tincæ* dilated, and the *Placenta* offered. The extracting the First had been certain Death to the Child; which if possible was to be saved; so thinking that it might adhere in a small Part of it, just so as to keep some Circulation in the Child, I past my Hand by it, broke the *Membranes*, and by bringing the Child first, saved it. This should ever be done.

CASE LI.

A Woman delivered of Female Twins, the First of which was brought away with the Forceps.

APRIL 28, 1734, I delivered a poor Woman of two Daughters, both with their Mother now living. The Head of one Child had lain several Hours very low; the Woman had much Pain without Advantage. I delivered her of this with the *Forceps*; then finding another, broke the *Membranes*, and taking the Child by the *Feet*, delivered her of that, then of the double *After-Birth*,

which was more than com monly large ;
as were both the Children.

C A S E LII.

*A Woman delivered of a Second Child,
where a Hand and Foot offered.*

JULY 7th, 1734. I delivered a Gentlewoman of a Second Child, which had been long dead: The other Child was born near two Days before. The *Navel-String* was far out; a *Hand* and *Foot* offered; I brought down the *Foot*, and by that delivered her.

C A S E LIII.

*A Woman delivered of a Child, whose
Limbs were of different Sizes.*

SEPTEMBER 5, 1733. I was called to a very corpulent Gentlewoman, who had been long in Labour, and with much Pain. The *Head* of the Child presented, but continued to lie very high. This Child I turned, with no small Labour

bour and Difficulty. The Child's Face lying towards the *Os Pubis*, the Feet far out of the way, and in an ill Position. I first found a large *Thigh* and *Leg*, which I brought through the *Os Tincæ*, which lay very high, and then searching for the other Leg, I found one little more than half as large as that first mentioned. I imagin'd (though I said nothing) that this Leg must belong to another Child, and of Course quitted my Hold; being now unwilling to give more Pain, by further Search, I brought down the Leg first mentioned, as low as I could with my Fingers only, then past a *Fillet* over the *Ankle*, by which I had the Advantage of taking the Part in a fine Cloth, and using greater Force (which here was absolutely necessary.) Thus I delivered the Person of a living Child, to which the Legs of different Size both belong'd. Here had I not been deceiv'd by what I never found before, I had with much more Ease and Safety both to the
 Mother

Mother and Child, brought down the small Leg also. Yet was I so happy as that the former received no Harm, and the latter suffer'd only an Extension of the *Ankle* by the *Fillet*, which I could not possibly pass above the Heads of the *Fociles*. They are both now living, and the Child's Legs much more alike. It was observable, that one *Arm*, indeed all one Side of the Child (even the *Face*) was fuller, and the Limbs longer than the other. This unequal Distribution of Nourishment I must leave to the Learned to account for. There was too in this Case another remarkable Thing, *viz* The *Placenta* adhering a little more than usual, I had an Opportunity of finding the *Uterus* surprizingly *thin*, *i. e.* the Parts between my Fingers within, and my Hand without, upon her Body, seemed altogether no thicker than the *Teguments* near the *Navel* generally are; so that it is plain the *Uterus* must be very thin. From this (which in a less Degree
I have

I have often found, as well as the perfect contrary) I wonder not Authors have differed so much on this Head; undoubtedly on both Sides they found it as they have describ'd it.

CASE LIV.

A Child extracted with the Fillet.

SEPTEMBER 5th, 1734, I was called to a Woman in *Grays-Inn-Lane*; the Child presented the *Head*, and lay low. Here I passed a *Fillet* over the Head, and by that delivered her.

CASE LV.

Two Women delivered where the Buttocks offered.

I DELIVERED two Women, where the *Buttocks* of the Children presented. One was a small Child, and far advanced; there I slipped my Fingers into the *Groin*, and by assisting in the Pains, which were quick and strong, I delivered her the third Pain.

THE

THE other Child was larger and not so far advanced ; here, I put the Woman into a proper Posture ; *viz.* her Shoulders low, &c. as before mentioned returned the Infant a little, and so brought down the *Feet*.

C A S E LVI.

A Child with its Face lying towards the Os Pubis, extracted with the Forceps.

ON Christmas-Day, 1734, I delivered a near Relation of mine, just then turned of *Sixteen*, of her first Child, which proved a *Daughter*. During the Space of a Month before, she had felt much Pain (especially in the Night) in her Back, and round her Body ; and the Child bore down so closely and strongly on the *Neck* of the *Bladder*, that the *Vesica* could not relieve it self without much Pain and Difficulty. I was not well pleased with the Form of her Body ; *viz.* a high, hard Belly, which did not,
even

even to the last, fall lower or become more flat, as is usual when the Child is in a perfect Posture, *i. e.* when its *Face* lies toward the *Os Sacrum*. From this I judged that the *Face* lay toward the *Os Pubis*; which I signified to one in my Family; and made a *Prognostic* accordingly, about a Fortnight before the Labour. At five in the Morning, the Day before mentioned, I was called to this Young Woman; who told me she was then very full of Pain, as she had been for some time before; but with this Difference, that her Pains came *periodically*; and that awaking from a Slumber, she found her Linnen somewhat wet. I suspected her *Water* broke, as the usual Phrase is; but, on a nearer Enquiry, it was not so; what she mentioned being only some Slips from the *Uterus*. The *Os Tincæ*, was thin and dilated to the Breadth of half a Crown. A soft Water gathering, the Head of the Child following close, and her Pains continuing,

I declared her fairly in Labour; and gave her the proper Attendance. About *eight*, the *Membranes* broke, and discharged a very small Quantity of *Water*: Her Pains increased, were quick and strong; and in about half an hour the Child fell so low, that though I found its *Face* turned toward the *Os Pubis*, I was in great Hopes that Nature, with common Assistance, would have done her own Work; I was therefore very unwilling to have recourse to Art. But, after two Hours Trial, finding no Advantage from her Pains, though at every one of them the Head was more than even with the *Labia Pudendi*, I was forced to it. I first made an Attempt with the *Fillet*; but the Young Creature's Pulse began to sink, and her Pains falling off a little, I chose to take the most speedy, as well as most secure Method, introduced the *Forceps*, and delivered her in about two Minutes. The Mother and the Child are both now living, and in good Health.

HAD

HAD a *Midwife* been called to this Person some Days, not to say Weeks before, when her Pains and Complaints began to vary, and (as is common with young and unexperienced Midwives, put her upon her Labour too early (which I carefully avoided, not so much as making an Enquiry till the Time above-mentioned) considering the Position of the Child, what must have been the Consequence? And even had a *Man* been call'd, who was unacquainted with the Use of that noble and safe Instrument, the *Forceps*, he must have destroyed the Child.

N. B. Mrs. *Eagle*, a very modest and good *Midwife*, was by me all the Time of the Delivery.

CASE LVII.

Another Child extracted with the Forceps.

I WAS lately called to a poor Woman in *Cold-Bath-Fields*, who had been long in Labour. I found the *Head* of the Child lying very low in the *Vagina*. The Midwife had for several Hours expected the *Head* every Pain, but Nature being now very much spent, the Force of the Pains was abated, without any reasonable Expectation of their Return. Things being in this Situation, I introduced the *Forceps*, and within five Minutes after, delivered her with great ease. Both the *Mother* and *Child* are now living and well.

I COULD produce about *thirty* Instances more, of the same Operation performed in this Town, with the same Security to both the *Mother* and her *Infant*; but am willing to believe these sufficient.

Now,

Now, as the great Calamity, under which so many of the Fair Sex labour, viz. the *Procidentia Uteri*, when it happens to a considerable degree, can be remedied only by the *Pessary*; I have seen and used several Sorts; but, upwards of twenty Years, have employ'd only that here describ'd, which fully answers the End, and wholly keeps up the *Uterus* in the *Pelvis*, and prevents a bearing down of the *Vagina* out of the Body.

THEY are made of light Wood, dipped in melted Wax; I have them of different Dimensions, viz. from two Inches diameter, to three and a half, according to the Difference of Parts. They lie easy, and better allow of the necessary Discharge, than those not perforated.

FOR some Years I used a *Pessary*, made likewise of Wood, and dipped in Wax,
M which

which was a perfect Ring, and about an Inch in Circumference ; and consequently the Perforation very large. This sort was very light and commodious ; I was pleased with the Invention, and my Patients were no less satisfied with it : But at length I met with the following Accident.

A YOUNG Woman, Housekeeper to an old *Gentleman* in the Country, came to me with a Complaint of the *Prolapsus Uteri*. The *Vagina* was turned out, and fallen about five Inches out of her Body. I put up one of these Rings ; not being altogether large enough, in two Days it slipped from her ; she then returned it herself, or with the Assistance of a Fellow Maid Servant. After a few Days she came again, and complained of a violent Heat and Pain in the Part. On a proper Enquiry, I found the *Os Tincæ* wholly receiv'd by the Ring, and swelled in the
Part

Part, which was pressed through, and below the Ring, as a Finger that swells with a strait Ring. I then made an Attempt to take it from her, but her Impatience and Imprudence prevented me; she protesting she had rather die than allow of it.

I TOLD her of the Danger of a Mortification, &c. but she was resolute, and I was obliged to dismiss her with a Charge to lose twelve Ounces of Blood at her Arm; I gave her *Sal Glauberi*, and such Medicines as I judged proper for the Part. All this was done, with but slender Hopes of Success.

THREE Days after this, she sent for me, and professed an entire Submission to what I should think necessary. I had in this Time provided myself with a small thin Blunt-hook, by the Help of which, with some Difficulty, I brought the

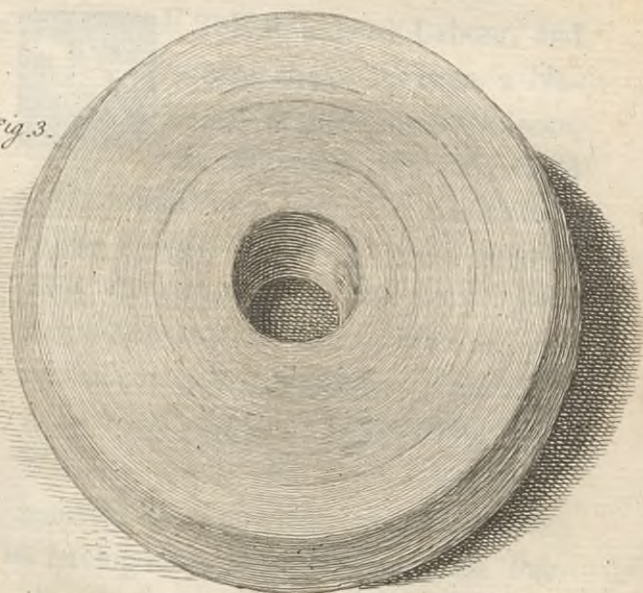
M 2

Ring

Ring away. This being not performed without Pain, and much Impatience on her Side, she was so loud on this Occasion, that the rest of the Family more than suspected she had been under my Hands on a more disgraceful Occasion.



Fig. 3.





CONCLUSION.



AFTER a hard Labour, and where there has been a Necessity of using some Violence, the Woman is to be treated as one bruised by a *Fall*. Here, as a thing of the greatest Service, I would recommend the wrapping of the Body round with a *Sheep's-Skin*, hastily flead off, and applied as warm as possible. I have for many Years past had a happy Experience of this Method, and wish I had come sooner to the Knowledge of it than I did, as having always employed it with Success. It secures the Body from all *Cold*, so very pernicious at this time, puts the whole *Abdomen* and *Loins* into a plentiful Sweat, and thus, by a *Consent* of *Parts*,
relieves

relieves the *Womb* itself, and prevents *Inflammations*, *Obstructions*, and many other Complaints that usually attend Deliveries. I find this Method much recommended by *Guillemeau*, an old *French* Author; nor is it of such little Significancy as *Dionis* * seems willing to make us believe.

HE tells us, that *Mr. Clement* applied one to the *Dauphiness*: that “ the *Sheep* “ followed the *Butcher* into the Room, “ and came up to the Bed-Side, which “ surpris’d the Ladies, and put them into “ a very great Fright”. But how does this unlucky (not to say unlikely) Accident, which may easily be prevented, make any thing against the Practice I here recommend? *Mr. Dionis* however, assures us, that “ *Mr. Clement* never used “ this Method afterwards, because it was

* Midwifery, p. 261.

“ thought

thought it did more *Harm* than *Good*." But doth not offer any *Reason* for this Supposition.

THUS have I delivered what I had to say on the Subject of MIDWIFERY: Nor will the *plain* Dress in which these Lines appear, I hope, prove any way prejudicial to the Matter; since *Fact* and *Experience* will always be thought preferable to *Hypothesis* and *Conjecture*; and *Truth*, at least to all judicious Persons, appear most agreeable in its *naked* Simplicity.

I HOPE it will be thought that I have been plain and open enough to answer the grand Design of this *Treatise*; and shewn how the *Art* which I profess, may be exercis'd with more Secularity to the Lives both of the *Children* and their suffering *Mothers*. It is with Pleasure that I find the most shocking Accounts here given, have produced a
good,

good, and indeed the only intended Effect; that the perusal of my Book has inspired several worthy Midwives with a due Sense of the Difficulty of their Work, and put them upon calling early for the Assistance of the Author and others. I thought myself obliged to mention this Particular, not only as a Proof that the Instructions here laid down are *rational* and *safe* in *Practice*, but likewise as a just Acknowledgment of the modest, judicious, and conscientious Conduct of those Gentlewomen.

BUT before I take my Leave of this Subject, if my *junior* Brethren, and the Gentlewomen in the Practice of *Midwifery*, will excuse me the Freedom, I would advise, and endeavour to influence them to behave both in *Words* and *Action*, with all imaginable Tenderneſs to ſuch as fall under their Care. Their Pains both in *Mind* and *Body*, are at that time very hard upon them, and their

Con-

Condition calls for the softest Manner in the necessary Assistance; especially where a Child requires *Alteration of Posture, &c.* And this as well with the *Poor* as others. For to me nothing seems so obdurate and inhumane, as that a Fellow-creature should have her Life lost, or indeed hazarded (as is, I am afraid, too often done) because she has not the Happiness of being enrolled in the *List of Fortune's Favourites*. For my own part, I can safely assert (and that with no small Satisfaction of Mind) that I never once let poor Women lie one Moment in Pain to secure my *Reward*, but ever hastened to them, and gave them the best Assistance I was capable of, as soon as I could be released from those with whom I was first engaged. I would not, however, be understood to excuse such as are able, from considering the Merit and Labour of the *Artist* in a proper manner.

I DESIGN not in this to direct my Superiors, or censure any Person, and hope I have not here offended any one. Every Man is to judge for himself; this is only a Declaration of my own private Sentiments, and an Account of my own *Practice*, which I doubt not will agree with by far the greatest and most experienced Part of my Profession: And I even flatter myself with the Hopes of Pardon from the *Few* who may happen to dissent from me.

SINCE the Publication of my First Edition, I have had the Pleasure of instructing several Gentlemen in the Art; and among others, besides the Gentleman, whose Letter I have inserted at Length, Dr. *W. Weltden*, Mr. *Smither* of Reading, and Mr. *Philip Haste*, jun. of Coggeshall in *Essex*.

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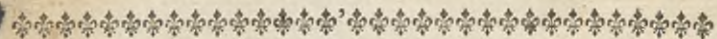
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