

The female monitor, consisting of a series of letters to married women on nursing and the management of children / by the late Hugh Smith, M.D. ; with occasional notes and a compendium of the diseases of infants / by Dr. John Vaughan.

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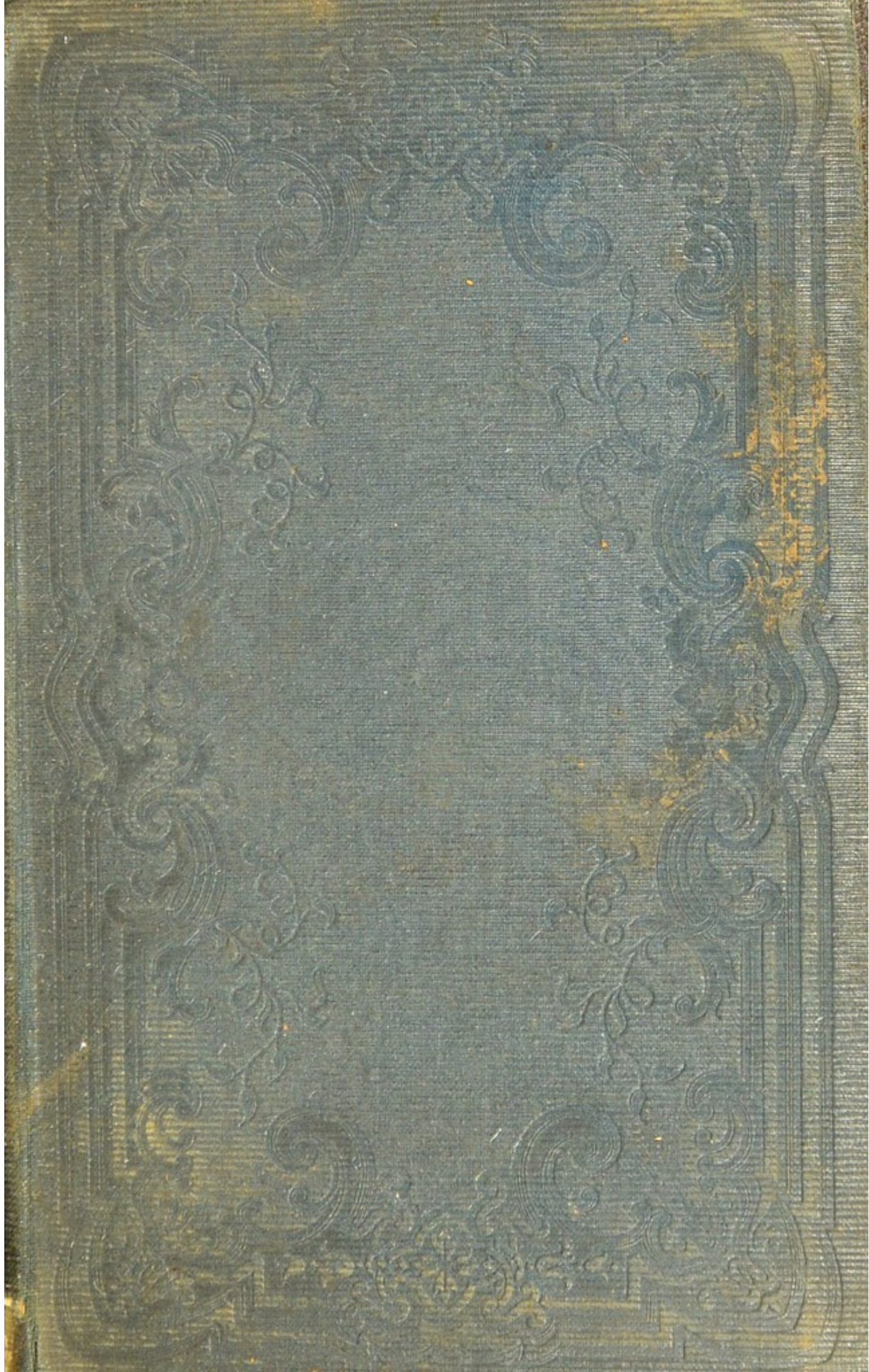
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fection. This, indeed, is a point which the strongest advocates for the force of imagination must not only allow, but likewise approve of its tendency; since fortitude is the only preventive, according to their favorite system, against the miserable consequences of frights, and disappointed longings: for if such a degree of courage can be obtained, as will prevent fear, and such a degree of resolution maintained, as will prevent the mind being hurt, upon any casual disappointment of the inclination, the evil itself is at once remedied; because the imagination will never painfully dwell either upon objects of disgust or inclination; and consequently blemishes can never happen from such causes.

I trust that my attentive and intelligent readers will not be displeased with the discussion of this very interesting subject. (*a*)

(*a*) The unprejudiced reader will, no doubt, be satisfied with the author's ingenious reasoning on the subjects of longings, and of blemishes upon infants. The prejudiced matron must be convinced by unerring experience.

If blemishes were the effects of mental impressions, a great part of mankind would bear the images of maternal terror; for there are few women who have not been alarmed at some period or other of their pregnancy, by unseemly sights. It is most devoutly to be













and that both the mother and child were likely to do well. I was at that time very young; but my reflections upon the oddity of the event determined me to be always wary in the examination of dropsical female patients.

Thus we see in this woman, and in a variety of other cases, where impious efforts have been used to promote a miscarriage, that nature, in spite of great violence, sometimes will not be interrupted.

Let us then aim at assisting her in this great work, where the constitution appears not able to go through with it; and point out the most rational means to prevent abortion.

Our first letter, over and above the enquiry concerning marks, longings, and frights, greatly tends to this material end. Women of a delicate form, and too great sensibility, are the most liable to miscarry: such also are the most likely to imbibe, and to be affected by, the prejudices we there wished to caution them against. The power of fear is undoubtedly sovereign over most persons; and this, as it frequently occasions miscarriages, is truly to be dreaded. If, therefore, the prejudices were discountenanced, the unhappy fear itself would assuredly cease.





























