

The trial of a cause between Richard Maddox, gent., plaintiff, and Dr. M----y [Morley] defendent, physician, and man-midwife, before Sir Michael Foster, Knt. ... at Guildhall, London, March 2, 1754 ... In an action upon the case, brought by the plaintiff against the defendant for ... not performing his office as a man-midwife in the delivery of the wife of ... plaintiff ... To which will be added, some extraordinary cases in midwifery; extracted from the writings of ... Dr. Deventer, of Leyden / [Richard Maddox].

Contributors

Maddox, Richard.
M----y, Dr, defendent.
Deventer, Hendrik van, 1651-1724.

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T R I A L

O F A

C A U S E

BETWEEN

RICHARD MADDUX, Gent. Plaintiff,

A N D

Dr. M-----Y, Defendant,

Physician, and MAN-MIDWIFE,

B E F O R E

Sir MICHAEL FOSTER, Knt.

One of the Justices of the *King's-Bench*.At Guildhall, London, March 2, 1754. By a
Special JURY.

I N A N

Action upon the CASE, brought by the Plaintiff against
the Defendant for promising and undertaking, and not
performing his Office as a Man-midwife in the Delivery
of the Wife of Mr. *Richard Maddux*, the Plaintiff.

W I T H T H E

Opinions of several Physicians and Man-midwives upon the
Case, as given in Evidence upon the Trial. Whereupon the
Jury thought proper to give 1000 l. Damage to the Plaintiff.

To which will be added,

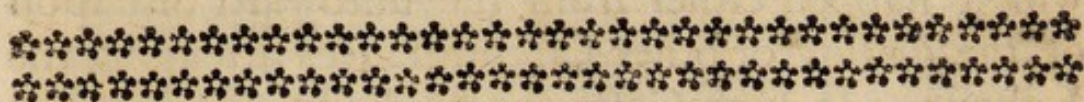
Some extraordinary CASES in MIDWIFRY; extract-
ed from the Writings of that very eminent Physician
and Man-midwife, Dr. *Deventer*, of *Leyden*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for H. JEFFERYS, in *Mercer's-Chaple*
Cheapside, and sold at the *Royal Exchange*.

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ADMONITIONS

TO ALL

HUSBANDS.



HE Perils of Childbearing are so many and great, and Lives so frequently lost in it, that a Woman who knows and foresees the terrible Consequences of her entering into a State of Matrimony, must have more than common Courage to subject herself to them. On the other Hand, what Care, Tenderness, and Affection ought every Husband to express for his Wife at such a critical Juncture? 'Tis true, it is out of his Power to afford her any immediate Assistance in the Time of her Travail; yet there is one Thing he can do, which may greatly contribute to the Safety both of her and her Offspring; and that is, to provide her a careful, prudent and skilful Midwife, which can give her the Assistance requisite on that dangerous Occasion; one of known Sobriety, and watchful to favour and promote every Opportunity of forwarding a happy Delivery.

BUT there are Cases which frequently occur, so difficult as to exceed the Judgment of the most skilful Midwife to undertake with any Prospect of Safety to the Life either of the Child or Mother.

ADMONITIONS to all HUSBANDS.

which happen either from the untoward Situation of the *Fœtus*, or other Circumstances attending the Labour. In such Cases the Midwife, if she is not too conceited of her own Judgment, or too proud to ask Assistance of any one, will give the Husband timely Notice of the Danger; who, if he has any Regard for his Wife, or is desirous of seeing and enjoying the dear Pledge of their Loves, will not hesitate a Moment to procure the Assistance of a Man-midwife, one who has the best Reputation for his Skill, Experience and Humanity; one who never refused his Aid and Assistance to the Poor as well as the Rich, and who never grudges his Labour, though in some Instances he can have but small Expectations of a sufficient Gratuity. But whatever may be the Husband's Circumstances, he ought, on this Occasion, to exert his utmost Abilities to make the best Recompence he can for such a hard and difficult Service as this most certainly is, to save Life, when it was impossible to escape Death by any other Means.

To conclude: Whoever considers the excruciating Pains and Agonies that a Woman undergoes in the Time of her Labour, even though she escapes with Life, and does not compassionate, comfort, and assist her to the best of his Power, is less sensible than a Brute, and deserves not the Name of a Man. And since it is the Will of Heaven to subject the whole Female Race to this unhappy Lot, the Almighty has, at the same Time, planted the tenderest Passions in the Breast of Man, in order to relieve, comfort and alleviate the Distresses of her whom he chuses for the Partner of his Life and Fortune.



THE
T R I A L
OF A

C A U S E
BETWEEN

RICHARD MADDUX, Gent. Plaintiff,

AND

Dr. M-----Y, Defendant.



H A T *Midwifry* is an Employment of the greatest Importance to Society, will not be questioned by those who reflect, that the Lives of our dearest and nearest Relations, our Wives and Children, depend on the

due and skilful Execution of it. Ignorance or wilful Neglect in the Discharge of this Office is often attended with the most fatal Consequences. How often is a tender Husband deprived of a beloved Wife, and his Hopes defeated in the Increase of his Offspring, by the perverse Obstinacy or unskilful Management of a Midwife? How often is a poor unhappy Woman held in the most excruciating Pains for Days together by an injudicious Operator, from which perhaps she might have been delivered in an Hour or two, had she fell into the Hands of a Person of Skill and Judgment?

IGNORANCE in this Profession is hardly excusable, because it is an Affair of such Importance, that no one ought to undertake it who is not conscious of a sufficient Ability to perform it; yet some Allowances may be made to those who honestly endeavour to improve their Minds and enlarge their Knowledge in this difficult Art. I call it difficult, because it is hardly ever perfectly attained; for Cases frequently happen that puzzle the most skilful Artist, and put his Judgment to the Test in what Manner he shall best proceed to save the Lives that are entrusted to his Care.

BUT if Ignorance in a Midwife, Man or Woman, be scarce pardonable, because the utmost Skill is required for the faithful and most dexter-

ous

ous Performance in many Cases that call for an Exertion of the most exquisite Judgment and Ability; what are we to think of that Man, who, by a long Course of Practice, and accumulated Experience, may be supposed to be extremely well versed in every Part of the Science, shall refuse his Assistance in the Hour of Extremity, to a Lady whom he knew to be in the most dangerous Situation, and whose Life, at least that of her Child, depended on his immediate Attendance and Relief? One would imagine it must be something very interesting that could induce a Doctor to desert his Patient in such a Condition. For surely no pecuniary Considerations could prevail on a Mind, the least endued with Humanity or Compassion, to suffer a Woman to lay languishing under the extremest Pains for Hours together, and in momentary Expectation of Death itself, merely because he was to have so trifling a Fee as *five Guineas* for his Trouble, when he expected double the Sum. Can any one believe there is a Man of so mercenary a Nature? If such a one there is, ought he not to be pointed out, as a Monster to be abhorred and avoided by all Mankind, especially the Female Sex, whose Distresses he has so shamefully disregarded? whom he has forsaken in the Hour of Extremity? Will they easily pardon a Man through whose wilful Negligence, an amiable

Wife, a tender Mother, and an innocent Babe have been lost? Whether the Case described in the following Narrative is a parallel Instance of this Kind, let the Reader judge.

AN Action was brought by *Richard Maddox*, Gent. Plaintiff, against *D-----r M-----y*, Physician and Man-midwife, for undertaking and not performing his Office, as a Man-midwife, in the Delivery of the Wife of the Plaintiff.

THE Plaintiff declared against the Defendant in an Action upon the Case; for that the Defendant using and exercising the Art, Mystery, or Profession of a Man-midwife; and the Plaintiff's Wife being Pregnant and in Labour, he, on the 29th of *May* 1753, retained the Defendant to aid and assist her in her Delivery; and that the Defendant did promise and undertake to attend on and assist the Plaintiff's Wife in such her Delivery. But the Defendant, notwithstanding such his Promise and Undertaking, did neglect and refuse to attend and assist the Plaintiff's Wife in her Labour, though required so to do; whereby the Plaintiff's Wife underwent great Labour and Pain, and for want of the Defendant's Aid and Assistance, was brought into such a State and Condition, that she from that Time languished until the 30th of *August*,

then

then next ensuing, when she died. And the Plaintiff laid, with several other Counts, his Damages at 5000 *l*.

To this the Defendant pleaded, that he did not promise and undertake in Manner and Form as the Plaintiff declared against him, and put himself on the Country; and the Plaintiff did so likewise.

ON *Saturday* the second Day of *March*, 1754, this Cause came on to be tried before Mr. Justice *Foster*, at *Guildhall, London*, by a special Jury.

MR. *Huffey*, of Council with the Plaintiff, briefly opened the Declaration, and Mr. *Hume Campbel*, on the same Side, stated the Facts, and expatiated largely on the Nature of the Cause, very pathetically describing the severe Sufferings of Women in Child-bearing, in which Condition they were justly entitled to all the Comfort, Assistance and Relief that possibly could be given to them; that it was cruel and unnatural to withhold the helping Hand, from a poor Creature labouring, as it were, between Life and Death, and crying out under the most agonizing Pains and Tortures; that Compassion and Assistance, in this Respect, is due and given to the most abandoned of the Female Sex; much more does it belong to a virtuous, modest and lov-

ing Wife, between whom and her Husband there always was the most sincere and affectionate Tenderness.

Now if it should be proved, as I apprehend it will, that the Defendant did promise and undertake, and afterwards neglected to give his due Attendance on this Lady in the Extremity of her dangerous Travail, and that such his Neglect was attended with the most fatal Consequences both to her and her Infant, I doubt not but you Gentlemen will be of Opinion, that the Plaintiff is entitled to the largest Damages you can give him; especially if it shall appear to you, as my Instructions inform me it certainly will, That the Defendant could not plead Ignorance of the Danger the Patient was in, because after he had examined her, he declared that to be his Opinion; he never said, that her Case was past his Judgment to relieve, for then, if he had been an honest Man, he would have demanded Assistance from some other skilful Practitioner; neither could he affirm, that he wanted proper Help, for both the Midwife and Apothecary were there ready to obey any Orders he should give them. What then could be his Motive to refuse a Woman his Relief in so terrible a Conjunction? I have not yet learnt, that he ever alledged any Reason or Pretence for his Re-

D. R. M. --- Y. 7

fusal, except the Smallness of a Fee, on a like Occasion, some Years before ; though the Plaintiff, now, made him, what I should think a very generous Offer. If this should appear to be the only Motive for his barbarous Treatment of this unhappy Patient, you will no doubt be of Opinion that he deserves the most exemplary Punishment.

GENTLEMEN of the Jury, give me Leave to address myself more particularly to you, on this Occasion. You are, I believe, the greatest Part of you, married Men : Now make the Case your own : Which of you, whose Wife is in Labour, does not immediately call for all the Help you can get ? You send for a Midwife ; she comes, but soon finds it exceeds her Skill to give the necessary Relief ; she very honestly tells you so ; you directly send for a Man-midwife, whose superior Judgment may be relied on ; he comes, and finds the good Woman in a very dangerous Situation, in which Condition he leaves her, and promises to return in an Hour or two's Time, but does not ; you send to him again, nay, go to him yourself, and entreat him to come, yet he absolutely refuses ; and your Wife, together with the Fruit of her Body, and perhaps the Hopes of your Family, die for want of his Assistance, would you not express the highest Resentment

sentment for such an injurious Treatment? Would you not endeavour by all Means possible to do yourself Justice on such a Miscreant? And though no Recompence can be made for the Loss of a Life, especially of a Life so dear to you, yet surely your own irreparable Loss, as well as the Respect you owe to the dear Memory of the Deceased, would spur you on to seek such as the Law will allow you. Now, if we should prove this to be the Plaintiff's Case by sufficient and incontestible Evidence, and that the Defendant has been guilty of the cruel and inhuman Usage to this unhappy Lady, in the Manner I have set forth, I believe you will be of Opinion, that, though by the Law, in this Case, his Profession has exempted him from corporal Punishment, yet that you cannot make him suffer too severely in his Pocket.

HE farther set forth, That this Action was brought by the Plaintiff against the Defendant, not only to recover Damages for the great Loss he had sustained by Means of the Defendant's Neglect and Default in his Profession (that being irreparable) but in order to deter others of the same Profession from the like contemptuous Negligence of their Duty, in Cases where the least Delay may occasion the Loss of the most valuable Lives.

THE Case here was this: Mrs. *Maddocks* having gone her full Time, had Mrs. *Hopkins*, a Midwife of great Experience and Reputation, attending her in Mr. *Maddocks's* House, in *Crane-court* in *Fleet-street*. On the 29th of *May* last, Mrs. *Maddocks* being laid in Bed, had the Symptoms of Labour come upon her; which Mrs. *Hopkins* carefully observing, apprehended her Labour would be extremely dangerous; and giving some Intimation of it, desired she might have the Assistance of a Man, fearing it would be too hazardous and difficult for her to undertake alone. Upon which Mrs. *Maddocks* took Notice, that Dr. M----y had laid her about four Years ago, and that if it was necessary, she was desirous of his Assistance again. Whereupon Mr. *Maddocks* instantly (it being then about Ten o'Clock) sent for Dr. M----y, and he came accordingly; and being taken into the Room where Mrs. *Maddocks* lay, he in a very rude Manner, asked of Mrs. *Hopkins* then attending, whether he was to lay the Woman? But Mrs. *Hopkins*, instead of giving a direct Answer to so abrupt a Question, said she could not readily inform him; but represented the Case to him, and desired that he would inform himself what was proper to be done, by examining the Lady himself; by which Means, she ap-

prehended, he would be able to determine what was most fit and proper to be done in so dangerous a Case. Accordingly, Dr. M——y did examine Mrs. *Maddocks*, and found her in such a Condition as had been represented by Mrs. *Hopkins*; and going into another Room with her, declared he was of Opinion that Mrs. *Maddocks* was in a dangerous Way; that if she was to be then delivered she would not live half an Hour; and therefore they must wait a more favourable Opportunity, or to that Effect. And though he made such a Declaration, he said he would go Home; which greatly surprized Mrs. *Hopkins*, who asked him the Occasion of such his Conduct, and whether he had any other Patient that required his Assistance? And representing the Danger Mrs. *Maddocks* was in, entreated him in the most pressing Manner to stay, informing him that if he was weary, or fatigued, or was inclined to go to rest, there was a very good Bed, clean-sheeted for Mr. *Maddocks*, which she desired he would go into, or lie down upon as he pleased; or if it would be more agreeable, Mr. *Maddocks*, and a Gentleman his Friend, would entertain him in the Parlour below, with what his House would afford, or could be procured for him. To which he replied, he would not stay, but would go Home; and though Mrs. *Hopkins* repeated her Request for him to stay, and repre-

sented

presented to him how necessary his Presence was for Mrs. *Maddocks's* Preservation, he absolutely refused; and being again asked the Occasion, he very furhily declared, he did not know what brought him there, or why he came; that he remembered he had attended this Lady some Years before, but he was not paid to his Satisfaction. She enquired of him what he had been offered? To which he replied, that he could not then remember, other than that he was not paid to his Liking, as he then thought. Whereupon Mrs. *Hopkins* said, if that was the Case, she was sure it must arise from some Mistake; that Mr. *Maddocks* was a very worthy Gentleman, and a generous Man; and she would answer for it, that if he, the Doctor, would be pleased to stay, it would be made up to him double; and entreated him in the most earnest Manner, that he would not leave her. But the Doctor still persisting in his Resolution to be gone, she insisted on his Promise to return again, when the Symptoms altered, and it should appear necessary. And accordingly the Doctor did promise to return the Instant it should be thought necessary, and that he should be sent for. Mr. *Maddocks*, Mr. *Langley* his Apothecary, Mr. *Flower*, a Gentleman of his intimate Acquaintance, waited in the Parlour below; and hearing that the Defendant intended to go away,

before Mrs. *Maddocks* was delivered, came out to wait on him, and used all the Arguments they could think of to engage him to stay, Mr. *Maddocks* offering to give him what Money he desired; and putting his Hand in his Pocket, in order to see if the Allurement of Gold would have any Effect, Mr. *Langley* intimated, that it was improper to give him Money at that Time; that it was not customary on such Occasions to give Money before the Business was done, it being usual to make Satisfaction in Cases of that Sort, according to the Danger of the Case, the Time bestowed upon, and Trouble attending the Performance and Operation. However Mr. *Maddocks*, in order to prevail on the Doctor to continue with him, offered him his own Bed, or to entertain him in such a Manner as would be most agreeable to him. But being unable to prevail on the Doctor, he asked him if he might depend on his coming again when Occasion should require it; and the Doctor then promised and assured Mr. *Maddocks* he would attend whenever he should be sent for, and represented to Mr. *Maddocks* the great Danger his Wife was in, with Intent, as supposed, to enlarge the Fee.

THE Doctor being gone before twelve o' Clock, an Alteration in Mrs. *Maddocks* being hourly expected, Mr. *Langley* the Apothecary, who had undertaken to give the Doctor Notice of it, and to

bring him when it should happen, continued with Mr. *Maddocks*, having a Coach waiting for that Purpose. About Two o'Clock Mrs. *Hopkins* observed the Symptoms greatly altered, of which she informed Mr. *Langley*, and desired he would immediately go and bring the Doctor; and that she was satisfied, that if he had been then with her, he might have delivered her with Safety, and that any Delay would probably be dangerous. Mr. *Langley* accordingly went with a Coach to the Doctor's House in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, and having gained Admittance, informed him of the Truth of the Case; that he had a Coach ready for him, and requested his immediate Attendance, representing to him in the strongest Terms the great Danger of a Delay. But the Doctor, devoid of all Humanity, remained inflexible, and without assigning any Reason, declared he would not go. And being asked by Mr. *Langley*, what Apology he should make to Mr. *Maddocks*, for such his Conduct, answered, what he, Mr. *Langley*, pleased, or none, as he thought fit. Upon which Mr. *Langley* returned, and informed Mr. *Maddocks* of the Doctor's Behaviour: And Mrs. *Maddocks* being at this Time in the greatest Distress, and Flooding to an excessive Degree, Mrs. *Hopkins* entreated Mr. *Langley* to procure some other Person in the Place of the Doctor presently, in Regard Mrs. *Maddocks* was in such a

Condition

Condition as to require further Assistance in Aid of her Mrs. *Hopkins*. Accordingly Dr. *Hannakin* was pitched upon as a very experienced and judicious Person, and the nearest to be had. Mr. *Langley* therefore went to Dr. *Hannakin*, who immediately came with him to Mrs. *Maddocks's* Assistance, and finding her in a very dangerous Condition, occasioned in a great Measure by the Delay of her Delivery at a proper Time, and being informed of Dr. *M-----y's* having before attended, of his going away, and refusing to return, declared he thought Mrs. *Maddocks's* Case to be very dangerous, and that he would not venture to intermeddle without advising with, and having the Assistance of, some other Person of the Profession. Whereupon it was proposed and agreed to send for Dr. *Middleton*, which was accordingly done, and he came immediately; and shortly afterwards Mrs. *Maddocks* was delivered, and her Flooding stopped; but the Child lost its Life through Neglect, and for Want of Assistance in due Time.

Mr. *Gould*, of Council on the same Side, called the Plaintiff's Witnesses, and first examined Mrs. *Hopkins*, the Midwife, who gave her Evidence very clearly and distinctly, and set forth the Case as stated by Mr. *Hume*, the Discourse and Conversation

versation between her and Dr. M-----y, in the Manner before related ; the Doctor's actual Promise to return when sent for ; and that if the Doctor had waited as he was requested to do, or had returned according to his Promise and Undertaking, Mrs. *Maddocks* and her Child, might have been preserved, who were severally lost through his Neglect.

MRS. *Hopkins* was cross-examined by Mr. Serjeant *Prime*, and Mr. *Norton*, the Doctor's Council ; but she still adhered to the Evidence she had already given, without varying from it in the least.

THE second Witness called, was Mr. *Langley*, who fully and clearly proved so much of the Case, as is before stated, in which he was concerned ; particularly Mr. *Maddocks's* entreating the Doctor to stay at his House, and offering and promising to pay him any Sum of Money he should desire, the Doctor's Refusal to stay, and his Promise to return ; his, Mr. *Langley's* going for the Doctor, and informing him of Mrs. *Maddock's* Condition, and his absolute Refusal to attend according to his Undertaking, and the Doctor's making such Answers as before-mentioned.

MR. *Langley* was likewise cross-examined for the Doctor ; but he gave such satisfactory Answers to

all their cross Questions, as rather confirmed than contradicted the Evidence he had given before.

MR. *Hussey* examined Mr. *Flower*, the third Witness, who corroborated Mr. *Langley's* Evidence as to Mr. *Maddocks's* entreating the Doctor to stay, offering him Money, and the Doctor's absolute Promise to return and attend when called for.

THE fourth Witness called was Dr. *Hannakin*, who being examined by Mr. *Hume*, proved so much of the Case as is before stated, in which he was concerned, and the Case of Mrs. *Maddocks* as before set forth; that if Dr. *M---* had attended when sent for, and had performed his Duty, the Train of ill Consequences, occasioned by his Neglect, would have been prevented.

DR. *Middleton*, with other Witnessess, proved that Mrs. *Maddox* afterwards languished for three Months, that is, from the 29th of *May* to the 30th of *August*, and then died, and never recovered from the Disorders brought upon her, by the very great and excessive Floodings and other Injuries she received, for Want of Assistance, and being delivered in due and proper Time.

DR. *Schomberg* likewise gave Evidence in Behalf of the Plaintiff, and made it plainly appear, that Mrs. *Maddocks's* great Loss of Blood, occasioned by the Delay of her Delivery, was the sole Cause of the Dropsy, which she soon afterwards fell into, and of which she died.

THEN Mr. Serjeant *Prime*, of Council for the Defendant, pleaded with a great Deal of Judgment and Elocution, in the Observations he made upon the Evidence given for the Plaintiff, and hoped, that notwithstanding all that had been said on the other Side, that the Plaintiff would not maintain his Action, but ought to be non-suited, or else that the Jury should find a Verdict for the Defendant; alledging, that the Evidence given on Behalf of the Plaintiff, was not sufficient to prove the Charge against the Defendant; that this was a Case unprecedented; that Dr. *M---y* was a Physician of great Eminence in his Profession, and esteemed and employed by Persons of the highest Rank and Distinction, not only in the Practice of Physick, but as a Man-midwife. And farther, that his Client, the Doctor, saw no Necessity, and therefore was under no Obligation to stay with Mrs. *Maddocks*, since it was evident to him, and as he

then told Mrs. *Hopkins*, that she was not, at the Time he was with her, in a Condition fit or proper to be delivered; that what he did while he was there, was in prescribing for her as a Physician, and not as a Man-midwife to deliver her. That as to his refusing to come to her afterwards, it was the Effect of Self-preservation, always deemed the first Law of Nature, for at that Time he was in Bed, very much out of Order, and in a very great Sweat, so that if he had attempted to have got out of Bed at that Time, it would have been to the manifest Hazard of his Life. That the Doctor has indeed been represented by the Council on the other Side, as an inhuman and avaricious Person, greedily grasping at large Fees, and the like: Whereas, if he was rightly instructed, it would be made appear, that this was quite the Reverse of the Doctor's Character, who was not only a Physician of great Eminence, and very extensive Practice, but was likewise a most kind, beneficent, and humane Man, always ready and desirous to aid and assist all Persons without Distinction, who stood in Need of his Help and Judgment, without any mercenary View or Consideration whatever. That the Defendant would produce Witnesses, who were of unexceptionable Characters in the Profession, to shew, that Mrs. *Hopkins*, and the Witnesses, who had sworn

in

in Behalf of the Plaintiff, were greatly mistaken with Regard to the Case of Mrs. *Maddocks*; and that if the Doctor had attended her at the Time he was called for, it would have made no Variation in it; and that her Flooding in the Manner represented by the Plaintiff's Witnesses, would have had the same Consequences, as were insisted on by the Plaintiff's Witnesses, whether he had been there or not. Then,

MR. *Norton*, of Council of the same Side, called the Witnesses.

THE first Witness was Dr. *Sands*, a Man-midwife, who being sworn was asked, whether he had heard the Evidence that had been given on the Part of the Plaintiff? He declared that he had; and then gave a very long and learned Account of the Course of Practice in such Cases, with Precedents and Instances of the like Nature, as well such wherein he had been himself concerned, as what he had read in Treatises of Midwifry. Being asked, whether he was of Opinion, that Dr. M----y ought to have continued with Mrs. *Maddocks* when he was with her, or if he ought to have come again to her, when the Apothecary came to call him; he very candidly declared, that for his own Part,

he should have done it, and that the Doctor ought to have done so too; though he thought the Doctor ought to have staid with her; however, upon the whole, he gave Dr. M----y a good Character, as to his Ability and Judgment in his Profession.

MR. *Evans*, of Council on the same Side, called the next Witness, Sir *William Brown*, Bart. a Physician, who likewise spoke very learnedly on the Occasion. He made a great Distinction with Respect to the Capacity in which Dr. M----y acted in this Case. And being asked the same Question which was put to Dr. *Sands*, in Relation to his having heard the Witnesses for the Plaintiff, answered in the Affirmative, and then distinguished, and would have had it been understood, that the Doctor was called as a Physician, and not as a Midwife; that he was sent for to administer Physick, and not to lay the Patient. And though the Defendant's Council were unwilling to give him so much Trouble, yet he was pleased to give a very long and particular Evidence upon the Nature and Circumstances of a Labour in General, in the ordinary Way, it's presumed, with an Intent to serve the Defendant; but it seemed, and was believed that it had a quite contrary Effect, little Regard, it is apprehended, being paid to this Evidence by the Jury;

Jury: and the rather, that on his being cross examined by Mr. *Hume*, for the Plaintiff, and asked, Whether if he had been sent for, and had been in the like Situation with Dr. M----y, he should have thought it incumbent on him to have continued with the Patient till after her Delivery, or at least have come again, when called upon for that Purpose? But instead of a direct Answer, he charged Dr. *Hannakin* with Neglect, in not laying the Patient when he came, without wanting any other Assistance.

THE Defendant's Council then called the Doctor's Servant Maid, who swore, that her Master had been for some Time past indisposed, and then was, or had been ill with the Shingles, and had Sweats of a Night. That he came Home from the Plaintiff's a little before Twelve o'Clock, and went to Bed, and said he was then indisposed, and that he could not go out again with Safety: But upon the Whole, gave a very loose and imperfect Evidence,

AFTER these several Witnesses had been examined, and given their Evidence of the several Facts they were sworn to prove, the Defendant's Council called several other Persons, some of Note and Distinction,

tion, others of the Faculty, to establish the Doctor's Character, as well with Respect to his Humanity and Disinterestedness, as to his Care, Skill, Diligence, and Experience in his Profession, of a Physician and Man-midwife; particularly,

THE Right Honourable the Lord *Dungavon*, and Earl of *Cork*, in the Kingdom of *Ireland*; who testified that he had known the Doctor six Months, and that he had employed him as a Physician and Man-midwife, to assist and advise his Lady in her Pregnancy and Labour; that the Doctor had been extremely diligent and careful; and in general, gave him a good Character.

SIR *Everard Fawkner* was called next, who swore he had known the Doctor two Years; that he was looked upon to be a very good Physician, and of great Humanity.

THE Defendant's Council called several other Witnesses, who all testified that the Defendant was a very humane and good Physician and Man-midwife.

THE Defendant's Council having examined also their Witnesses, rested the Matter here, declaring, that

that their principal Design was, to invalidate the Propriety of the Action, which they apprehended had no Foundation to support it, and to prove that the Doctor acted, on this Occasion, as a Physician, and not as a Man-midwife.

MR. HUME, by way of Reply, briefly recapitulated the Arguments and Evidences that had been given on both Sides ; particularly that given by Sir *William Brown*, making some pertinent Remarks on the Incertainty and Impropriety of it ; that the Defendant had not made good any Case to excuse himself of the great Neglect in the Duty of his Office, of which he had been accused, and was sufficiently proved against him ; and that upon the Whole, the Plaintiff had fully proved his Declaration.

THE Council having finished their Pleadings, the Judge, who tried the Cause, having with the greatest Justice and Impartiality, and with the utmost Clearness and Perspicuity, summed up the Evidence on both Sides, left it to the Consideration of the Jury, to find such Damages for for the Plaintiff as they should deem requisite.

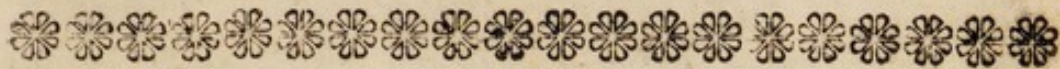
UPON which the Jury retired, and having been out about fifteen Minutes to consider of their Verdict,

dict, (and which Time they employed, not in disputing whether they should find for the Plaintiff or Defendant, that being unanimously agreed upon, but as to the *Quantum* of the Damages, some of them being of Opinion, that they ought to find to the Amount of two or three thousand Pounds) at last did, to the Satisfaction of the Judge, bring in a Verdict for the Plaintiff, and one thousand Pounds Damages, with Costs of Suit; a Verdict so just and equitable, that it gave Pleasure to all who heard the Cause.

N. B. It's generally believed that the Plaintiff, who is a Gentleman of generous Principles, as well as Opulence, will apply the Damages he has recovered on this remarkable Occasion, to some charitable Use.

Now in order to assist such Midwives, who are not too confident of their own Judgment, or rashly undertake what they are not able to go through with, I have selected some *extraordinary Cases* from the Writings of Dr. *Daventre*, Physician and Man-midwife, at *Leyden* in *Holland*.

E X T R A-



EXTRAORDINARY

C A S E S

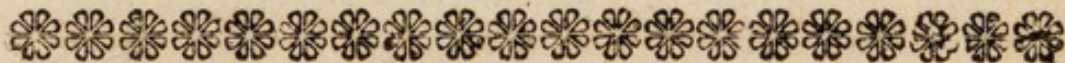
I N

M I D W I F R Y,

Extracted from the

WRITINGS of that very eminent Physician
and Man-midwife,

Dr. *DEVENTER*, of *Leyden*.



© 1850

EXTRAORDINARY

CASES

IN

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Patented Jan. 18

Writings of that very eminent Physician
and Man-midwife

DR. DENVER, of London

© 1850



EXTRAORDINARY

C A S E S

IN

M I D W I F E R Y .



T often happens in some Women, that the Bottom of the Womb may fall very far down into the *Abdomen* of the Woman, whose *Abdomen* also lies very low; and that too in such a Manner, that the Length of the Womb, together with the *Vagina*, may describe a broken Curve; and often also to that degree as almost to perfect a Rectangle; and when it so happens, that in a Womb thus perversely situated, the Infant lies resupine, or on his Back, thence necessarily and unavoidably follows a *most difficult Birth*, and for the most part causes the Death both of Mother and Child, because such Women, for the most part, *die* before they are *delivered*.

IF any one ask why such a Situation of the Mother and Infant is so dangerous, and almost always mortal to both? I answer, for the Reasons following.

I. *Because Midwives being ignorant of the Danger, do not desire timely Assistance.* And what Wonder is it that Midwives should not know the Danger of this Posture, since such a Posture of the Womb and Infant has hitherto escaped them, and all the World? And what Wonder is it that such a Posture has hitherto been unknown to the World, since (I am very well satisfied) not one, amongst all the Authors, who have written before me, ever knew this Situation, or has at least described it? And since such a Posture is, and hath hitherto been unknown to every Midwife, it will not seem strange to any one, that hitherto all Midwives have been, and yet are unapt and unable to search out and distinguish such a Posture of the Womb and Infant from others.

THAT it is a Truth, that this Posture hath hitherto been unknown to all Midwives, I judge also from this, *viz.* That hitherto no Midwife ever was so knowing as to tell me, that the Womb and Infant were thus placed, when I have been called to deliver a Woman, where Matters have taken this Turn.

II. *Because at present no Midwife knows how by the Touch to distinguish such a Posture of the Womb and Infant from other untoward ones.* These Women, who thus bring necessary Assistance to such a one in Labour, are likewise unfit for this Work, as not being able to tell either the Woman or her
Friends

Friends the Danger of this Situation, and consequently neither the Woman nor her Friends can have Time enough to deliberate how to take Care seasonably to expedite the Mother and Infant from such mortal Danger.

III. *Midwives not knowing such Situation of the Womb and Infant, nor dreading its mortal Danger, deceive themselves, as well as the Woman in Labour, and her Friends, and the rest of the By-standers:* For, when they are asked, If the Infant be well turned, or lie with the Crown of his Head upon the Orifice of the Womb? They say, Yes, he thrusts the Crown of his Head forward, he is well turned; and here acquiescing, they securely expect a quick Delivery; whereas they ought to fear, that, if an experienced *Master* in the *Art of Midwifery* be not speedily sent for, the Woman might for certain die undelivered.

IV. THIS Posture, therefore, which we now treat of, is not dangerous in respect only of the Ignorance of Midwives, but is in itself surrounded with so many Perils and Disadvantages, that the most skilful and most dexterous *Master* in this *Art* is obliged to deem it very dangerous; and confess, that if it be not impossible, yet that it is at least extremely difficult for him, in such a Situation of the Womb and Infant, to preserve the Mother from Danger of Death: And that I may demonstrate that what I say, is founded on Truth and Experience, I shall now (and I think it necessary so to do) as clearly as may be, treat of this same Situation and its Consequences, that all who are skilled in the *Art* may be fully convinced thereof.

THE Case in question then is this: An Infant
living

CASES IN MIDWIFERY.
lying resupine, or on his Back, in a Womb fallen so low in a propendulous *Abdomen* (or which on the Fore-part is prominent downwards) so that the Posture of the Womb and *Vagina* seem to make a broken Curve or Rectangle.

I SUPPOSE the Infant in such a Womb to lie resupine with his Head to the Orifice of the Womb, so that it cannot be otherwise but it must first strike upon the Orifice of the Womb, and be pressed above against the Curvature or Bending of the *Vertebrae* of the Loins, and the *Os Sacrum* or *Coccygis*; which for the most part shoots out in a Point, as is well known to all Anatomists, and therefore they may easily understand what I here presuppose.

FROM this true Supposition there unavoidably follows another, to wit, that the pointed Part of the Womb, with the Infant's Head inclosed, must necessarily lie upon the *Ossa Pubis* of the Woman: Whence it must follow, first, that the Waters cannot easily dilate the Mouth of the Womb; and besides, if they could a little open and dilate the Womb, this could not be done but under the Head of the Infant in the Cavity of the *Pelvis*, and consequently the Waters cannot be but of an oblong and tenuous Form or Figure, and oftentimes are broken before the Midwife can observe it, or else they are already broken before her coming to the Woman, because such a Person has not her true Pains, and the Midwife who is called seldom thrusts up her Hand so high, as to be able to perceive the Increase of the Waters; for it is impossible she should reach them with her Fingers only, unless they descend or fall down like an Intestine, or Gut.

AND

AND when the Waters, or rather Membranes, are broken, and the Waters flow out, they call them fugitive or flying Waters, without rightly conceiving the true Cause of this their Defluxion, yet they know by Experience, that these Waters for the most Part foretel a *difficult Birth*: For these Waters are formed oblong and slender in all bad and untoward Positures or Situations of the Womb and *Fœtus*, whose Head does not directly lie over the Orifice of the Womb; and this happens more or less, as the Head of the Infant more or less stops or shuts up the Mouth of the Womb. But because the Consequences of these same Waters are not always equally pernicious, hence it is they hope for the *Best*, whereas it ought rather to be a reasonable *Memento* and Admonition to them to fear the *Worst*.

FROM what has been hitherto said, every one that is skilled in the *Art*, may gather, first, That in this Positure or Situation of the Womb and Infant, the Pains can be but little urged or provoked, in order to dilate the Mouth of the Womb by the Head of the Child, because it lies against the *Os Sacrum*; besides, if the Head of the *Fœtus* could somewhat dilate the Orifice of the Womb, in such Case the hinder Part of the Head of the *Fœtus* would only descend a very little into the *Pelvis*; and if it should so happen that the hinder Part of the Head of the *Fœtus* could by little and little descend more and more into the Cavity of the *Pelvis*, even then the Head could not fall down farther, unless to the *Ossa Pubis*, whereon indeed the Infant might be held by the Neck; for farther than that, it cannot easily descend.

THE *Fœtus* being then resupine, or upon his Back, with the Crown of his Head lying upon the Curvature or Bending of the *Os Sacrum*, the Neck leaning upon the *Os Pubis*, the hinder Part of the Head fallen down upon, or into the *Pelvis*, with his Face reclined upwards; the Midwife touches the hinder Part of the Head of the Infant, and imagines she plainly feels his Crown, and says, the *Fœtus* comes on duly, and as it rightly ought; that the Birth is natural, the Child well turned, and provided there were due Pains, all Things would go well; but she says, that the Pains are too feeble, promote nothing, and advises the Woman strenuously to urge and provoke them. But all these Efforts prove in vain; for the strongest Spasms or Distentions can by no Means express or throw out an Infant in such a Situation, which being thus fixed, is every where incommoded and appressed by the Bones of the *Pelvis*.

IN this Posture or Situation, there is yet another vast Disadvantage of which the Midwives complain, being however very ignorant why it is so. And this Inconveniency obtains chiefly in Women of a more advanced Age, who never before have been in Labour: Which Inconveniency consists in this, That there is no Aperture, nor can be, tho' the Woman be a great many Days in Labour; for the Head of the Infant remaining thus compressed, does not urge, nay indeed never can urge or move the *Pudenda*, because it cannot descend, either by Assistance of Hand or Pains; wherefore no Medicines inciting Pains or Spasms can avail any thing in this Case, but rather are extremely hurtful and injurious; and nothing is hence to be expected,

expected, but the certain Death of the Mother, and *Fætus* especially, though there has preceeded an entire Defluxion of the Waters, and the *Fætus* remains compressed in a dry Womb; but to save the Mother, while she has yet Strength, let not the *Fætus* be treated as if dead, and the Mother may be delivered. And to do this, is required a Master most excellently dextrous in this *Art*; for this is not only a most difficult Task, but what is almost impossible to be effected: I say *almost* impossible, not absolutely so, unless it be such as are not very skilful and experienced.

If any one should desire to know what a Midwife must do to draw forth such a *Fætus*? I answer, That in the above-mentioned Situation and Danger, an Inversion of the *Fætus* must by no Means be thought on, either by drawing it out by the Feet, for then the Head cannot be retroduced; for which Reason the Head, which at first came down into the *Pelvis*, is to be drawn forth; but this cannot be done but with much Difficulty; for besides that, in Women of a more advanced Age at their first Travail, there is no Aperture, and this ought to be first made, for the Head remains so fixed and appressed, and the Situation of the Body that is to follow it so perverse, that it is entirely impossible to draw forth the Head either with the Hands, or any Instrument whatsoever, unless first having opened the Skull, the Brains taken out, and even then it has its Difficulties.

SOME, perhaps, may ask, Whether the Infant, in such a Case, might not be drawn forth by the *Tire Tête* (as it is commonly called) an Instrument invented by Monsieur *Mauriceau*, without first taking out the Brains? I answer, that although I

made this Instrument according to that Gentleman's Directions, and have kept it by me for many Years, yet I never made any Use of it; because I know, by Experience that the Head, in such Posture or Situation, cannot be drawn forth, unless the Brains be first taken out; for I have sufficiently tried so to do, by Instruments that were very fit and proper for such an Operation.

THE Reason is, because the Infant being fixed by the Neck, is appressed by the *Ossa Pubis*, and because its Back and Shoulders are too much every-where appressed by the *Ossa Pelvis*, to be drawn thence by the greatest Violence. Nor would it suffice in this Posture or Situation, to draw the Head to one by any Instrument which had taken hold of it, for so should we, by Means of such an Instrument, with an incredible Violence, appress the *Ossa Pubis*; and that the Head may follow, the Fraction, or Drawing, ought to be directed more towards the Parts posterior than the anterior, for otherwise there would be no Passage; and unless the Brains be taken out of the Head, the Space is too narrow to draw it towards the Posterior or back Parts; and therefore I prefer to this Instrument (the *Tire Tête*) a Hook or strong Forceps, for these may be better directed, and introduced with less Inconveniency.

Not to multiply Chapters, and yet that we may instruct the *Tyrones*, or Students of this Art, with proper Observations in such *difficult Births*, we shall make mention of another perverse Situation of the Womb and Infant; namely, as it sometimes happens, when the Womb is fallen down into a somewhat prominent *Abdomen*, not directly strait-forward, but more inclined either to the right Side

or left; and when in such an obliquated Womb the Infant lies resupine, and so falls down with the hinder Part of its Head into the *Pelvis*: This Posture or Situation is not to be esteemed much more advantageous than the former, in which the Womb falls down directly strait-forward into the *Abdomen*, and the Difficulty of delivering the Woman, as also the Danger of her Death, without first bringing forth the *Fætus*, is almost the same, nay very often greater, for the Reasons mentioned in the foregoing Case.

MIDWIVES know not how to find out this Situation by the Touch, and distinguish it from that which is a natural one; and though the Head of the Infant be thus obliquely fallen into the *Pelvis*, yet, say they, it is well turned; according to their Judgment, there are only wanting some urgent and provoking Pains, Medicines must be had to incite them, which the Physician prescribes, relying on the Judgment and Desires of the Midwife, but with great Injury and Prejudice to the Woman in Travail; for even the sharpest Pains, in this Case, are to no Purpose, for they cannot force the Head of the Infant as it ought to be, because the *Fætus* sticks very close, being strongly appressed in his Head, Neck, and Shoulders, between and against the *Ossa Pelvis*; and this Situation is equally dangerous and mortal as the preceding, unless *Art* come timely to the Assistance of *Nature*; if not, the *Fætus* must be treated as above.

INFANTS who, in this Situation of the Womb, lie prone upon their Belly, are more easily brought away; yet Experience has taught me, that such Situation of a prone Infant is oftentimes attended with equal Inconveniencies as if it lay on its Back;

and this happens when the *Fætus* lies on its Belly in such a Place, where it may stretch out the Forepart of his Crown, and hold the hinder Part of his Head somewhat reclined Sideways, and where he may have his Chin prest to his Breast, and his Face looking upward. Now the Face, reclined Sideways, may for the most Part look upwards; in which Case even the most skilful Master in the *Art* may err, for judging of the Positure of the Head, he will most certainly conclude the *Fætus* to be lying on its Back; but when the Head shall be drawn out, he will see the Infant follow with the Breast and *Abdomen* turned upward: Whence it necessarily follows, that the Head and Neck of the Infant were writhed or intorted, and so to have descended into the *Pelvis*. So that the Midwife, in such a Positure, stands in need of as much Labour to draw forth such a *Fætus*, as if it had lain on its Back; the same Means therefore in both ought to be made Use of.

THE Reason why Infants are drawn forth from Wombs reclined on either Side, with the same Difficulty as from those which have fallen direct forward into the *Abdomen*, is, because the Shoulders of the Infant, do then, for the most part, lie as it were diametrically transverse or athwart the *Pelvis*: For which Reason, being pressed to, every where by the *Ossa Pubis*, they remain immoveable, and cannot be drawn forth without extreme Violence: And unless the Shoulders fall down into the *Pelvis*, the Head of the Infant cannot be drawn out; and it will be very difficult to find any one that has such tender Hands and Arms, as that he might immit them all along from the Head to the Shoulders, and so direct them as they may descend into the *Pelvis*, or make them lie directly over the *Pelvis*:

So that when the Head of the Infant is drawn forward, they may fall into it, and unless the Shoulders follow, as has been said, the Woman cannot be delivered.

BUT perhaps some might ask, whether in such a Posture of the Womb and Infant, the Woman cannot, or ought not to be delivered after another Manner? I answer, if the hinder Part of the Head is already fallen into the *Pelvis*, it can be done no other Way, as I know of; but if such Situation be timely known, then a far different Method must be made use of, *viz.* we ought not to suffer the hinder Part of the Head to fall into the *Pelvis*, but we ought immediately to break the Membranes, if they are not so already; and then having with the Hand immediately removed his Head to the Side, we must feel after the Infant's Feet, which, when having found, gently to draw them to us, and after this Manner draw out the inverted Infant by his Feet; and in so doing there remain yet Hopes of saving the Mother and the Infant, which Hopes entirely vanish as soon as the Waters have made their Defluxion, and the hinder Part of the Head is fallen into the *Pelvis*.

BUT as we have before observed, this Posture or Situation, is entirely unknown to Midwives, and can by no Means be distinguished by them; for which Reason very rarely they send for a Master in the Art, but when the Time is elapsed wherein the Infant might be saved, nay very often too late for the Mother to escape Death; for in this Case, though the *Fætus* be thus brought forth, being too much weakened and debilitated, she dies: For which Reason, not without Cause, we laid it down as a certain Truth, that these Postures or Situations

tuations are for the most Part destructive and mortal both to Mother and Infant.

I DOUBT not but every one, who is desirous of Improvement, may be glad to know by what Ways and Methods, in the Beginning, Infants thus untowardly posited, and perversely issuing, may be drawn out by the Hands, with Hopes of saving both Mother and Child?

THAT we may give a candid Answer to this Question, I must say, that in order to assist sagely and religiously a Woman in Labour, under such unhappy Circumstances, it must first of all plainly appear to us how the Womb and Infant are posited, either Sideways, or in the forward Part of the *Abdomen*.

IF the Womb and Infant are posited on either Side, the best Way of all is, that the Mother should lie down in the Bed upon that Side in which the Womb and Infant are situated, with her Knees lifted up towards the *Abdomen*, and the upper Part of the Body posited in a more declining Situation than the lower, that the whole Weight of the Womb and Infant may fall backwards towards the *Diaphragma*.

IF the Infant and Womb are placed in the *Abdomen*, the Woman ought to be Kneeling on the Bed, with the upper Part of the Body very much declined; so that the *Abdomen* being at liberty, the Womb and Infant may, by its own Weight, descend into the Forepart of the *Abdomen*.

THE Woman being so placed, the Doctor ought to introduce his Hand, and gently bring it down from

from the Head to the Shoulders of the Infant, and then he must retropress the Infant to make room; after which the Head ought to recline a little towards one Side, the Chin appress the Breast, and then moving his Hand along the Head, and thence upon the Breast of the Infant, he must proceed to the Feet; of which, having found one, he must hold it in a Noose, that it be not pulled back again; then let him endeavour to get the other, and gently draw both through the Mouth of the Womb; whitherto having brought them, he must hold them close together with one Hand, and with the other retropress the upper Part of the Body, and so by degrees draw forth the Infant by his Feet.

BUT three Things are here to be observed: (1.) That before the Infant is farther protracted, the Woman must be placed in a different Manner; that is, she must be laid on her Back, with the upper Part of her Body somewhat elevated, which is the Situation of a Woman in a natural Labour. (2.) Before the *Fætus* is farther protracted, the *Abdomen* of the Woman ought by a skilful Hand to be put up, rightly and firmly placed; which then very easily may be done, and proves a great Conveniency and Advantage. (3.) While we draw down the Feet, the Infant is to be inverted by little and little, so that the *Belly*, *Thorax*, and *Face* may be turned downwards, lest the Chin strike upon, and be appressed by the *Ossa Pubis*.

WHILE we are employed in gently drawing forth the Infant, let the Woman in Labour likewise do her Office, that is, she must strive, as much as in her lies, whether the Pains provoke or not, to express the Infant, for this is of very great Help and Advantage, and especially if the Infant is still alive,
for

for these Endeavours of the Mother hurt her much less than the Doctor's Touches. When the Infant is thus brought into the World, the Secundines, or After-birth, are to be taken out, and the Womb purged or cleansed.

AMONGST all the perverse Positures or Situations of Infants, none is worse than this; that is, when the Infant lies transverse or athwart the *Pelvis*, and especially when the Infant, thus posited, lies resupine, or on his Back.

THIS Positure always causes a difficult Birth, whether the Womb be directly or obliquely posited; and if such a Positure causes a difficult Birth, when the Womb is directly posited, much more will it do so when the Womb has an oblique Situation; and most difficult of all in a Woman, whose *Pelvis* is but small and plain, and when the Bottom of her Womb falls down low in the *Abdomen*.

Now two Ways especially may an Infant lie transverse or athwart the *Pelvis*; the first is, when the Head and upper Part of the Body lie on one Side of the *Abdomen*, and the Feet, Legs, and Buttocks on the other: And this Positure or Situation is yet much better than the next, which I am going to instance, and for the Causes I shall presently mention.

THAT, which is yet much worse, is, when the Legs and the lower Part of the Infant lie in the *Abdomen*, but the Head and upper Part of the Body lie upon the Woman's Loins.

THERE is no Manner of Doubt to be made, but that an Infant, having either of these two Positures

fitures or Situations, cannot be brought into the World after such a Manner, but that the Mother together with the Infant thus retained, must die, unless she be delivered by an artful Hand; which, immediately after the breaking of the Membranes, may be effected easier, sooner, and with less Anguish than before; and very often, by spinning out the time, may be intirely impossible.

WHEN the Infant lies, after the first manner, transverse or athwart the *Pelvis*, with the upper Part of the Body on one Side, and the lower Part on the other, and the Belly lying lowest, whether the Navel-String hang out or not, there is not so much Danger as when the Infant lies on his Back; because the soft and tender *Abdomen*, or Belly of the Infant, cannot much resist the Hand when it is put in, in order to come at the Feet; for an Infant thus posited must necessarily be inverted and drawn out by the Feet.

BUT if the Infant lie resupine, that is, his Back lying lowest, then it will be very difficult to invert an Infant in such a Positure, and draw it forth by the Feet; nay, it will be much more difficult and laborious, because the Back is broad and hard, and does not easily give Way to the Doctor's Hand, when introduced; or permit itself to be thrust upward; besides, in this Case, he will be hindered from coming at the Feet, which will be difficult enough for him to do, especially if there has been already a Defluxion of the Waters.

IF it be very difficult to invert an Infant that lies transverse or athwart the *Pelvis* after the first manner, it will prove twice or thrice the Difficulty if he lies transverse, or athwart the *Pelvis* after the

second Manner; that is, when the lower Part of the Body lies in the prominent Part of the *Abdomen*, and the upper Part and Head upon the *Vertebrae* of the Loins, especially if the Woman's Loins are very hollow, and she carry her Womb very low in the *Abdomen*. If the Infant, thus posited, lie prone on his Belly, the Inversion will be much more easily made, or rather with less Pain and Anguish, neither is there so much Danger of Death, though the Infant be not brought forth, as if it lay supine or on its Back; and in the Beginning immediately after the Defluxion of the Waters, or when they are actually flowing, it is no ways so difficult to be brought about, as when the Waters have had their entire Defluxion, for the longer we delay, it will with more Difficulty be effected, and at last perhaps not at all, neither by the Hand, or indeed by any Instrument whatsoever.

SOME one, perhaps, will imagine I have represented this Posture or Situation in too difficult a Manner, not reflecting that this same Posture or Situation is of all the most difficult; but let him but once consider the true Reason of the difficult Inversion of such an Infant, and he will be obliged to acknowledge with me, that what I have asserted is entirely true; and that this may be well understood, first of all it is requisite to have a just Idea of the *Pelvis*, the Bones of which are so connected, placed, and designed, that the Hand and Arm, when thrust up through its Mouth or *Hiatus*, proceed in a right Line towards the Navel, a right-placed Womb has much the same Situation; and therefore it is, we may move our Hand and Arm, and work in it very easily, and the Arm is never strongly appressed by the Bones.

BUT

BUT if the Bottom of the Womb descends hence or is pressed down into a propendulous, or a forward-hanging *Abdomen*, then the Hand can never arrive at the Bottom of the Womb, because the Hand is then too short so to do, and the Arm too rigid, because there is no middle Joint between the Hand, and the Flexure of the Cubit or Elbow; and as much as I have earnestly endeavoured to exhibit to your View such a Posture, or Situation, yet hitherto I have not been able to give myself that Satisfaction.

SOME perhaps may ask, whether a Woman in this desperate Condition is to be abandoned and given up to certain Death? Or whether any thing else is to be attempted in order to save her? I answer, if the Woman has been in Labour some Days, if her Waters have had their entire Defluxion, and she be in a high Fever, and her Strength fail her; in such a Case I should advise to let her die quietly: but if she has any Manner of Strength yet remaining, then would I advise this Method to be made use of: *viz.* Having asked and desired Leave to treat the Infant as dead, with Hopes of saving the Mother, this is the nearest and only way so to do, as much as I have hitherto observed; to wit, having put in the Hand below, as far as may be, the Head of the Infant must be sought for, the Thumb and Fingers must be put into the Mouth, and so to be taken hold of by the Chin, and thus the Head must be drawn out downwards, as much as can be; this done, a strong Hook may be fixed into the Head, and the Head by this means be retained: The Head, thus with the Hook fixed into it, must be held by one Hand, and gently drawn downward; we must, with the other Hand pressed against the

Back of the Infant, thrust it up towards the opposite Side, that there may be room for the Head to be drawn down, inverting at the same time, by little and little, the upper Part of the Infant's Body, 'till the Head be turned downwards, and to be laid upon the Orifice of the Womb. This done, we may place the upper Part of the Woman's Body in a very declining Position, and procure two strong Men to draw up the *Abdomen* of the Woman with a Napkin or Towel, and then we may try to draw out the Infant; and there is great Hopes by this means both of delivering and saving the Woman.

IN all other Cases of a Womb obliquely posited, I have advised, and it is my present Advice to seek for the Feet of the Infant; and that the Infant thus held by the Feet, should be inverted and drawn forth: But because in this oblique Positure of the Womb, it is impossible to attain or come at the Feet, there remains nothing else to be done, but to draw down the Head after the manner just now mentioned, and to let it be then drawn forth as commodiously as possible; which Operation indeed is very difficult and troublesome, nor can it be performed but by a Hand of the utmost Dexterity: But yet that the Woman may be saved, all Extremities must be tried, and in this Operation the skilful Artist must take all the Care imaginable not to hurt the Woman, or do her any Damage.

ON the twentieth Day of *October*, 1713, I was sent for to a Woman at *Rotterdam*, who had lain five Days in Labour, was very much weakened with a high Fever, and delirious; where I also found the oblique Positure of a resupine Infant, and the Bottom of the Womb placed in a perpendicular *Abdomen*, but more leaning to the right
side

side; the Infant lay indeed on his Back, but a little inverted, so that the left Shoulder lay next the Orifice of the Womb.

BEFORE I searched this Woman with my Hand, I asked the Midwife, who had been some Days with her, how the Infant was posited, and what Parts came forward? She answered, the Child came forward with his Buttocks, and always remained unmoved in that Position. When I heard this, I presently declared I had good hopes of a speedy Delivery; saying, if the Infant comes on with his Buttocks, there will be no Difficulty of delivering the Woman: But going to work, I was instantly surprized, perceiving that the left Shoulder came forward, and that I could presently after come at the Back, and even the right Shoulder; so that the Infant lay resupine with his left Shoulder more declining, and his right Shoulder more elevated, when sliding in my right Hand along the Back directly upwards, I came to the Neck. I put my Hand yet still higher, till I came to the Head, which being a little inverted lay with the Face towards the right side, and the Chin very much pressed upon the Heart.

I TRIED farther, whether in the left part of the Womb, that is, whether in the Womb towards the left Side of the *Abdomen* there remained any Space, but I found that I could not, without a great deal of Pains, put my Hand in between the Shoulder, Neck and Head of the Infant, and the Womb, which was very much appressed by these Parts of the Infant: so that on this Side there remained no greater Space, and I could attempt nothing to change the perverse Situation of the Infant.

WHEREFORE, leaving this Place, I thought it necessary accurately to examine into the perverse Situation of the Womb; and to that end I put in my left Hand, which I thrust transversly beneath the Back of the Infant, and after that upwards, where bending towards me my Hand and Fingers, I could sufficiently feel the Head and Breast; but I could not find there any the least Space; for the Head with the Chin was firmly prest down to the Heart, and the Womb with both these was on every side straitned with so strict a Compression, that I could not but with the greatest straining, and that too not without pain, lift up one Finger; or when erected, contract or bend it back again.

HOWEVER, I made use of all my Strength to go higher with my Hand, but in vain, because my Hand struck against the side Part of the Womb: I say, I touched the side part of the Womb; which instead of lying in the left side of the *Abdomen*, looked directly upward; for which Reason I firmly concluded, that the Bottom of the Womb must necessarily be posited on the right side of the *Abdomen*.

THAT I might be satisfied herein, I ran my left Hand over the *Abdomen* on the outside, and at the same time with my right Hand in the Womb, I reached as far as I could towards the right side of the *Abdomen*, and by this means I was thoroughly ascertained of this rare and very oblique Posture of the Womb, the Bottom of which entirely fell down into a prominent *Abdomen*; to wit, into the left side of the *Abdomen*, in which left side of the said prominent *Abdomen*, the Infant, with all the lower Parts of his Body, that is, with his Legs and Buttocks,

tocks, had fallen down and remained compressed; whence ensued two of the greatest Impossibilities in the World.

THE first Impossibility was, that in this rare and perverse Positure of the Womb and Infant, no Pains, how strong soever they might be, or had already been, could avail any thing, to express the Infant through the Orifice of the Womb, because they would only more powerfully depress the Infant into the propendulous *Abdomen*; expressing nothing but the Humours, which necessarily should here remain, and so would do much more hurt than good.

THE other Impossibility, which necessarily followed from thence, was, that by long continued Pains, and the strong Depression of the Bottom of the Womb, and the Defluxion of every requisite Humour, it would be absolutely impossible to put the Hand or Arm so deep into the Bottom of the Womb, that the lower Parts of the Infant, that is the Buttocks, Legs or Feet, may be come at; which unless this be done, in such a Case the Infant cannot be inverted, and consequently cannot either come forward, or be drawn out; which in the Beginning of the Pains might yet have been done, as long as the Waters kept the Womb dilated and expanded, and while the Bottom of the Womb, together with the lower Parts of the Infant, were not fallen so low into the side Part of the *Abdomen*, nor were so much compressed, and consequently, when there was a greater Space, that you might come thereto, and apply the necessary Succours of the Hand.

How much did I heartily desire to save this unhappy Woman! And because the Infant was not only dead, but very much corrupted, of whom I was obliged to take no Manner of Care, and perceiving the Arms of the Infant to stop the Way. I wrung them round and broke them; but though by this Means I gained a little more room, yet was it not sufficient to let me come at the lower Parts of the Infant. There remained nothing then to be done, but to try if the Head could be brought down by the Method afore-mentioned; but a strong Convulsion arising, so firmly straitned the Mouth of the Womb, and so much contracted all the Parts, that I was obliged to desist from the Operation. She continued thus agonizing, 'till about Noon the next Day, when she expired.

BEFORE I quit this Subject of Infants lying resupine, I have thought necessary to add yet something of an Infant, which lying resupine, touches with the Crown of his Head the *Offa Pubis*; nay, and very often falls down upon those Bones. And what may be said hereupon, relates chiefly to Midwives, who by their Ignorance often kill Children, and as very often also the Mother with the *Fœtus*; wherefore I desire they would attentively consider and execute what follows.

WHEN the Bottom of the Womb plain enough lies towards the Back of the Woman, and especially in those, whose Loins are very hollow; then the Head of the Infant resupine, very easily falls down upon the *Offa Pubis*, unless the Midwife hinders it in due time, by turning the Head and the opposite Part, and as soon as may be, by putting it on the Orifice of the Womb, which she ought to do while
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the Membranes are yet entire, or immediately after their Rupture.

WHILE the Membranes are entire, she may really (if she be well skilled, and minds diligently her Business) perceive, whether the Crown, or whether the hinder Part of the Head lies upon the Orifice of the Womb; for the Crown hath a round and somewhat acuminated Figure; but the hinder Part is more oblong and plain; the Crown hath an open Place giving way to the Touch, but the other is hard and boney. When she perceives, not the Crown, but the hinder Part to lie upon the Orifice of the Womb, she ought not to sit down quietly, and prolong the Time, but be vigilant and go to work immediately, that is, she must labour both outwardly and inwardly; outwardly, she ought with one Hand upon the *Ossa Pubis*, at every Pain, to retain the Head of the Infant and press it downwards; and inwardly, she must, when the Pains cease, remove the Head from the *Ossa Pubis*, and so make Way for the Crown; and in so doing she must persist, 'till the Crown hangs directly over the Orifice of the Womb. And hitherto she ought not to persuade the Woman strongly to urge her Pains; for the stronger she depresses the Head, the sooner it falls down over the *Ossa Pubis*; which, when once it is fallen down thither, then is it out of her Power to put the Crown on the Orifice of the Womb; and when she cannot do this, the Mother and Infant's Business is done; for the Woman cannot be delivered after this Manner, the Membranes indeed will be broken, and the Waters flow out, but the Head remains there transversly fixed on the *Pelvis*.

IF the first Occasion be neglected, that is, if the Crown of the Head, the Membranes being not yet

broken, is fallen down upon the *Offa Pubis*; upon the breaking of the Membranes, she ought immediately to endeavour, with unwearied Application, to retroduce the Head, and place the Crown on the Orifice of the Womb, which necessarily must be done, otherwise the Mother perishes with the *Fœtus*; or the skilful Hand of an expert Master in the Art must thence draw forth the Infant either dead or alive: I say dead or alive, and the sooner the better, for it is better, if it cannot be otherwise, that the Child should die, and the Mother be saved, than that the Mother should with the *Fœtus* certainly perish, who, unless she receive timely Succour unavoidably must.

IF the Actions of Midwives were suspected, and examined into, how great and how many Errors would be detected; and how should we be astonished to see such horrible Tortures of Mothers and Infants! This Woman having taken hold of the Arms of a living Infant, draws them out with such Violence, that you may easily put your Thumb in between the Arm and Shoulder; and thus a Gangrene ensues, which, after having devoured the Child, destroys the Mother. Another, bores through the Infant's Skull, and takes out his Brains, that so she might draw him forth; which done, without asking Leave of the Woman or Husband, leaves her weltring in Blood, and the Infant rotting in her Womb. Hence arises an intolerable Stench, which inflames the Womb, and kills the Mother: And why need we wonder that these Things are thus transacted.

NOT long since, in a Village called *Wilsveen*, I delivered, in less than half an Hour, a Country Woman of a dead Infant, which, as the Woman her-

herself, and the Standers by, testified was alive the Day before; and which, as I was drawing him out with my Hands, without any Instrument, sent out a most horrid Stench of a dead Body. The true Reason of this, was, that a certain Midwife, as it was told me, having put a Noose round the Child's Arm, bid two strong Women pull it forward. 'till the Arm, torn from the Body, hung only by a little Skin, and so left the Woman, as one that could by no means be delivered. What dreadful Mistakes were farther committed in this Torture, I cannot certainly say, relating only here what was told me: But this I know, that when I searched the lying-in Woman with my Hand, I found the two Arms hanging down out of the Womb, and that one of the Child's Arms hung only by a thin Skin about six Inches distant from the Shoulder, by which means all the Blood-Vessels and Nerves being torn and broken asunder, it was impossible but all the Infant's Body must have been affected with a Gangrene, as I found it was; for the Child being inverted, and not forcibly drawn out by the Feet, was from the Head to the Foot, all over most horridly gangrened; nay, the Gangrene had even penetrated so far, that not only the Navel-String, but the whole After-birth was already wasted away with a Gangrene, or rather with a *Sphacelus*, or perfect Rottenness, which then was of a cadaverous and leaden Colour: Whence I concluded, that the Womb also was gangrened, and the Woman in great danger of death, which was but too true, for some Days after she died.

AND if such Crimes as these, how much soever they should be punished, are suffered to go on with Impunity, you will permit me, I hope, at least, faithfully to detect and demonstrate them to the World, not with an Intention to accuse

any one. Perhaps it might do some good, if those, whose Rank and Office so require, would be vigilant herein, and in this Case with united Industry, study the Common Good, and give ear to these Observations and Advice. If this be done, I shall render Thanks to God; if not, I am innocent before him, for I have not held my peace, but have detected those Dangers, and clearly demonstrated them, and have eased my Mind of that Burden; the rest I commend to God, who searches the Hearts of Men, and to whom every one must give an account of what he has done, and of what he has neglected.

F I N I S.

