

A narrative of the most extraordinary delivery of Mary Toft ... / With a preface by a man-midwife.

Contributors

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Publication/Creation

Bath : S. Barwell, 1774.

Persistent URL

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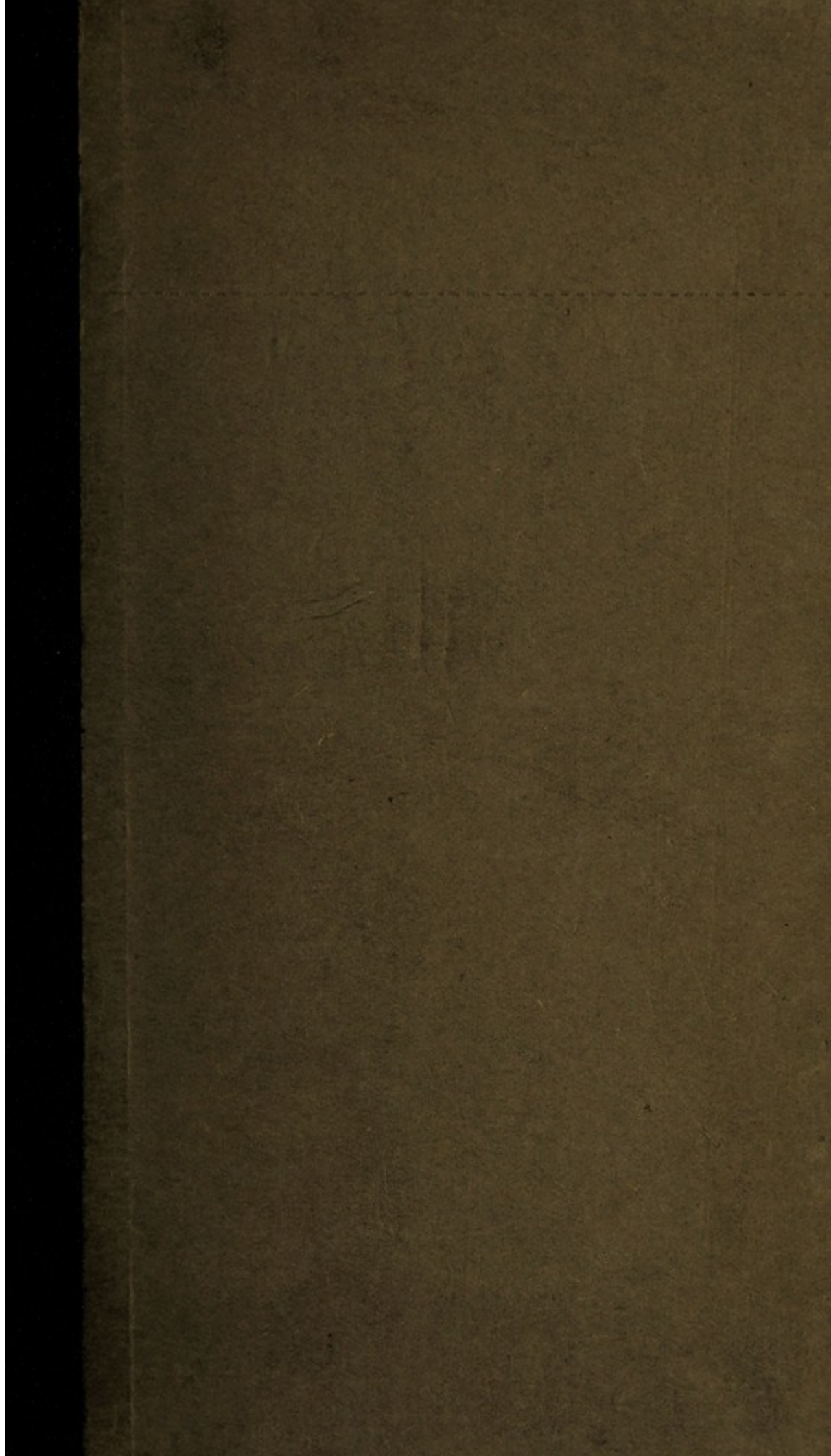
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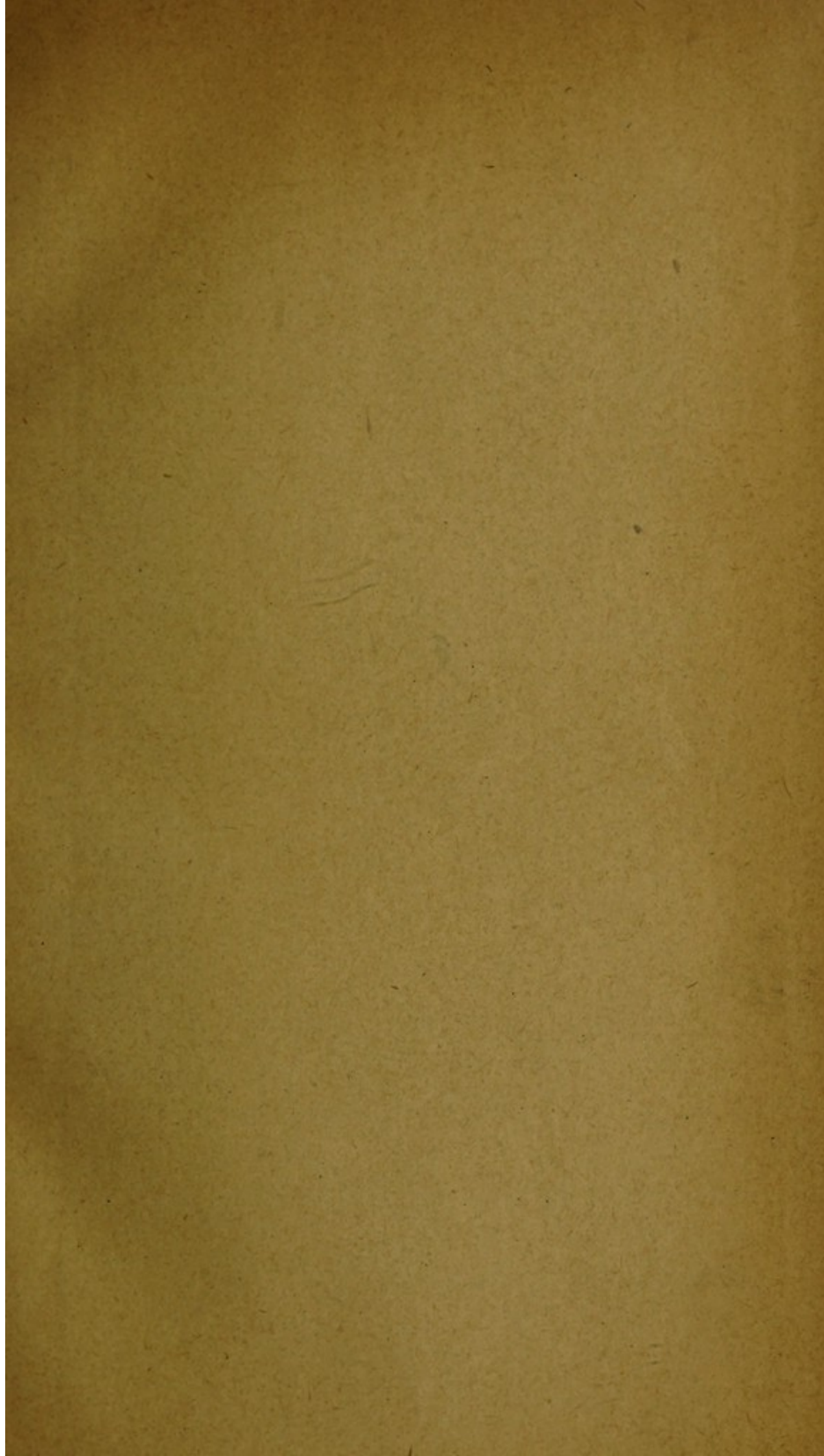
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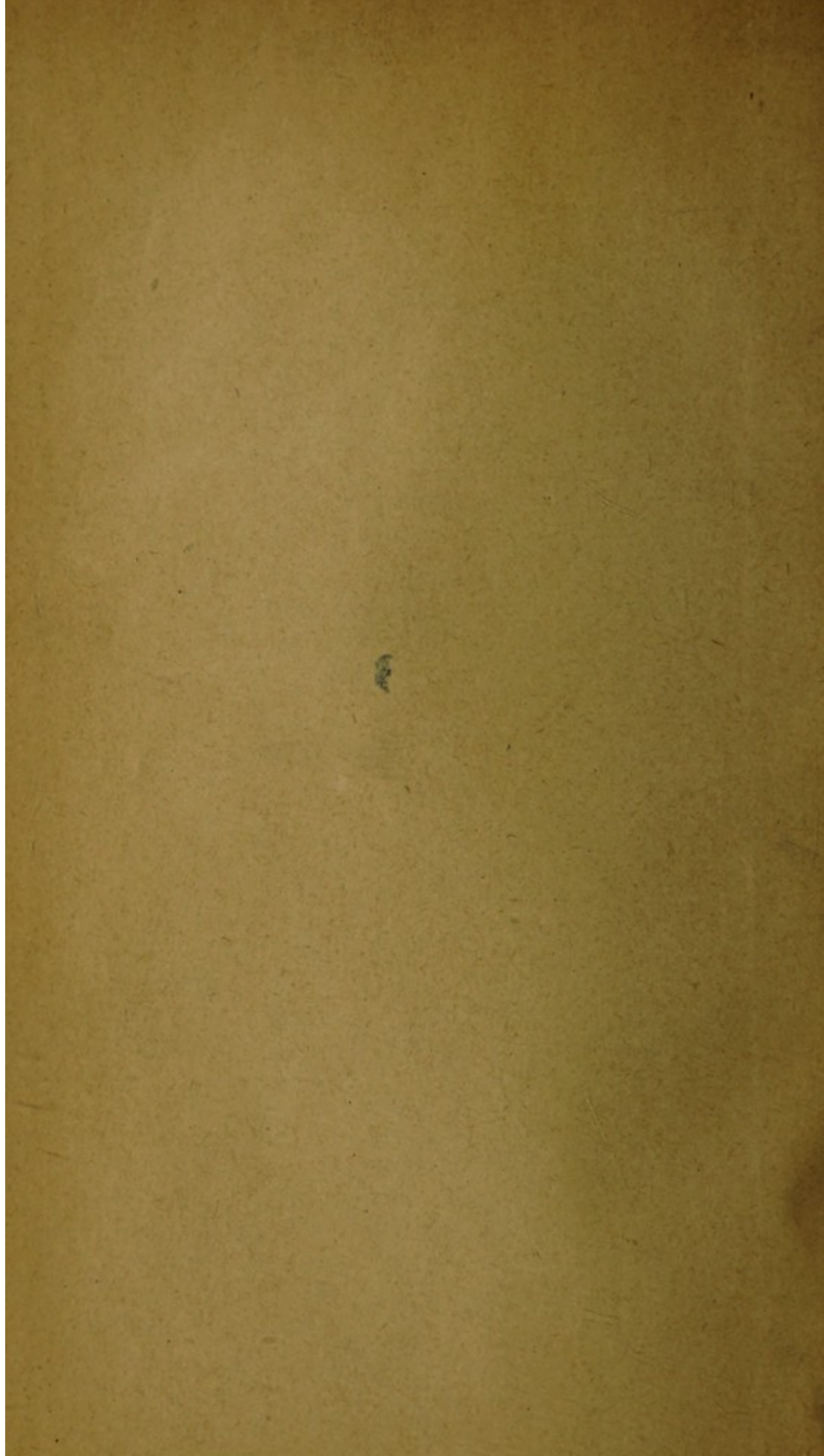


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A
NARRATIVE
OF THE
MOST EXTRAORDINARY
DELIVERY
OF

MARY TOFT,

Of GODALMING, in *Surry*;

WRITTEN BY THE
Celebrated Dr. ST. ANDRE,

And first published in the Year 1726:

Giving a full and particular Account,
How and in what Manner the said MARY TOFT
was delivered of upwards of fifteen Rabbits,
big and little.

With a PREFACE,
Not less void of Ingenuity than the Work itself,
BY A MAN-MIDWIFE.

BATH:
Printed for and sold by SARAH BARWELL,
Below the Steps, near the PUMP-ROOM.

M DCC LXXIV.

Price One Shilling and Six-pence,



P R E F A C E.

THE inquisitive Reader will naturally wonder, how a Narrative, so interesting in every Particular as the following, and which was read with such Avidity near fifty Years ago, should again be brought forth: To this I can only say, that my Profession inclines me to read and consider every Thing *pro* and *con* in the Way of my Business; and meeting with a Bundle of these Narratives, in an old Pamphlet Shop, I thought I might not only do some Service to the Profession of Midwifery in general, by this Re-publication; but that it was also due to a Gentleman, whose Knowledge, Learning, Genius, and universal Benevolence, cannot be too much extolled.

Dr. St. Andre is still living, and his long Life has been marked with many very interesting Periods. In his early Days, he instructed that good King, George the 1st in Anatomy; and it was at that very Period, that Mary Toft conceived, and became big with Rabbits. The King knowing (as he could not but know) how very strange a Thing it must be for a Woman to kitten Rabbits, sent his Household Surgeon, Mr. Ahlers, down to Godal-

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ming,

ming, to enquire into it ; but as Mr. Ahlers could make neither Head nor Tail of the Matter, he returned to London ; and in Consequence of his Report, the King was graciously pleased to put Matters past all Doubt, by sending down his own Anatomist, Dr. St. Andre : Notwithstanding this, there were many People then, (but I hope there will be none now) who were weak enough to doubt the Fact ; but surely, when they see the respectable Names of Mr. Molineux, Dr. St. Andre, Dr. Howard (my Brother Midwife) and, I might add, my old Friend Sir Richard Maningham's, (for he wrote in Confirmation of the Fact,) certainly it must convince every rational unprejudiced Man, who possesses a Grain of Philosophy, or common Sense, That Mary Toft not only longed for Rabbits, but that she conceived Rabbits, and was delivered of Rabbits. It may indeed be objected, that the poor Woman was never delivered of a perfect compleat Rabbit ; but nevertheless, if the Legs were produced at one Time, the Head at a second, the Body at a third, and the Skin at a fourth ; and these several Parts put together, would make up compleat Rabbits, it is all one ; for how often are we obliged to bore the Cranium of a Child, and to squeeze out the Brains, in order to reduce the Head, or to take off an Arm or a Leg, to effect a Delivery : All the Difference here is, that Nature did the Violence in this Case, (it being only with a Parcel of Rabbits) which we are forced to do, when we handle our Fellow-Creatures.

Some

Some People were weak enough to suppose that Mrs. Toft was not only an Impostor, but that Dr. St. Andre, Sir Richard Maningham, and Dr. Howard, were Parties concerned, and interested in the Event; for it is very true, that many humane People, and particularly the Fair Sex, did contribute largely to the Support of this singularly afflicted Woman; but when it is known that the whole Money collected for the unhappy Sufferer, was not above two hundred Pounds, and that Sir Richard Maningham was then the first Man-Midwife in London, and Dr. St. Andre the first Anatomist in the World, and in high Favour with the King, such a Conjecture must fall to the Ground.

Dr. St. Andre, in the following Pages, gives such unquestionable Proofs of the Truth of these preternatural Productions, and of his own great Abilities as an Anatomist, that it would be the highest Absurdity in any rational Being to doubt the Truth, or the Fact; for, says he, in Page 5, “the Woman made but very little Water, had a regular Pulse, but somewhat slow, a florid Tongue, and that between the Labour Pains she eat Beef, and preferred it to all other Food.”—Why they did not give her what she originally longed for, I much wonder! I mean, I wonder why they did not give her Rabbits; for bearing Rabbits from the *Uterus*, was no Reason, in my humble Opinion, why they might not have been good for the Stomach: And indeed it might have prevented those violent Struggles the Animal made in the *Uterus* before the Delivery: Nay, I do not see any material Reason, why she might not have eat
a little

a little Bit, now and then, of her own Rabbits; I mean such as Dr. St. Andre found were, in their Form, and intestinal Structure, nothing different from Rabbits taken from a real Warren; we see Cats often eat their own Kittens, without any Inconvenience; and it certainly tends to some wise End which Providence conceals, perhaps very wisely from us. Page 12, Dr. St. Andre says, "that the Stomach and Intestines of natural Rabbits were so notoriously different from those Mrs. Toft was delivered of, that even the sucking Rabbits had Stomachs at least three Times larger than those Parts were in the preternatural Rabbits, and that the Lungs were, in his Opinion, as nearly as he could judge, twenty Times bigger in Capacity than those produced by Mrs. Toft.

After what has been already said, and what the discerning Reader will learn from the Pen of Dr. St. Andre himself, I am unwilling to believe any Man of Sense can doubt the Fact. How the Rabbits came into the World piece-meal, is nothing so extraordinary, as we produce Pieces of Children frequently in the same Manner; and as to their being ready skinn'd, I confess that is a phenomenon I am quite unable to account for; but as the Reader will be impatient to see the most material Parts of this Work, I shall refer him to it, but not till I have related one very singular anecdote of Dr. Howard, a Gentleman whose Name is so often made honourable Mention of in the following Narrative:

I believe

I believe there are few Men who have not heard of Bird Fanciers, Beast Fanciers, &c. &c. but this same Dr. Howard was a Toad Fancier; and really kept a great Number for his daily Amusement: And I know a Gentleman of Truth and Honor, who assured me that Dr. Howard took it ill of him that he would not ride five or six Miles out of his Way, in order to take a View of his Collection of Toads! Now, if it had so happened, that Mrs. Toft had produced living Toads instead of dead Rabbits, (and certainly a Toad was as natural as any other Quadruped) in that Case I confess we might have attributed it to the Force of Imagination, and that the Woman, knowing the Doctor to be a Toad Fancier, and being big with fourteen or fifteen Children, might upon first seeing the Doctor, think of his Collection of Toads, and become a Toad Fancier too; for there is nothing more certain, than that Women frequently long for, nay, and actually eat, Things at that Time which they would abhor at any other; a very singular Instance of longing happened lately within my own Knowledge:

A young Woman, my Patient, had been seduced under a Promise of Marriage; and during her Pregnancy she longed for a plain Gold Ring, such a one as a Lady of her Acquaintance, who had been rather more fortunate in her Amours, wore upon the third Finger of her left Hand: When this young Woman's Labour Pains came on, I was sent for, and in a very short Time I delivered her of a fine Male Child, with a plain Gold Ring on the third Finger; and upon drawing it off,

off, I found engraved round the inner Circle, "*Two are better than one;*" and as I was apprehensive it might disturb the Mother, if I had mentioned the Subject of her Longing, and the Consequence thereof, I secretly put the Ring into my Pocket; and am ready to shew it to any Lady or Gentleman, who will honor me with their Company, at my House in Figgtree Court, near Golden-Square.

ANDREW CLITOR.

LONDON,

March 1, 1774.

P O S T S C R I P T.

SINCE the above Preface has been wrote, a very extraordinary Account of a Woman being delivered of four Toads, within this last Year, has appeared in the *Journal Encyclopedique*, published Monthly at Paris by Bouillon.

That the French Nation are many Years behind us in Matters of Philosophic Enquiries, is past a Doubt, and here is a recent Instance of it. The Man-Midwife who attended the Toad-Woman of France, in the same Manner as Doctor St. Andre did the Rabbit Woman of Godalming, and who actually delivered the poor Girl of three live Toads, and one dead one, in the Presence

sence of the Vicar, and a great Number of Spectators, was weak enough, not only to suspect a Fraud, but foolish enough to publish to the World his Ignorance and Folly. He insinuates, that the Girl, having conceived a great Dislike to a young Man, with whom she had been too familiar, contrived this wicked Method, to be avenged of him; and gave out, that he was a Sorcerer, and had Dealings with the Devil; and to evince the Truth of her Assertion, she repeatedly declared, that she was pregnant by the said young Man, with Toads, and that she heard them croak, (and so did many of her Neighbours also) in her Body: This she affirmed many Months before the Time of her Delivery. When her Labour Pains came on, the Man-Midwife, the Vicar, and a great Number of her Neighbours, were called in to be Witnesses of the Fact; and she was actually delivered of four Toads, three alive, and one dead! and yet, strange to believe it! neither the Vicar, nor the Midwife, are convinced that the Girl is not an Impostor: The former was called upon to christen the Toads by the tumultuous Rabble; but he insisted upon it, that though many Christians are Toads, Toads are not Christians; and they are actually now so, ignorant, so weak, or so wicked, as to have commenced a Prosecution against the poor innocent Girl, for debasing her Nature, aggravated by endeavouring to destroy and put to Death a young Man, who had been guilty of no other Crime, than simple Fornication with her.

It is therefore hoped, that Dr. St. Andre, whose great Knowledge in Anatomy, in Botany, Music,
b Mathematics,

Mathematics, Surgery, Midwifery, Architecture, & the Mechanics, has been so universally known and admired, will exercise those amiable Virtues, which are known only to his private Friends and Acquaintance, and set out immediately for Paris, and use his utmost Endeavours to exculpate the poor Toad-breeder, when she is brought to Trial; and not let a poor innocent Girl suffer, when he has it in his Power to assert upon his own Knowledge, a similar Circumstance, which happened to a Patient under his immediate Inspection; I say, a similar Circumstance; for though Mrs. Toft was delivered of dead Rabbits, and the French Girl of live Toads, yet they were equally extraordinary; and as Dr. St. Andre has put the first Instance past all Doubt, (as the discerning Reader will presently see) it seems incumbent upon him, on the Score, not only of Humanity, but Philosophy also, to attend the Trial of a poor innocent Girl, who may otherwise fall a Sacrifice to the Bigotry and Superstition of a Popish Priest, and an ignorant Quack: And fortunate it is for us, that we have such a Man among us, who is able to investigate Nature, to explode vulgar Errors, to detect Falsehoods, and in Spite of the Prejudices of Men of Learning and scientific Knowledge; stand forth a Champion for TRUTH, not only in private Conversation, but announce it to the World under his great and respectable Name.



A

SHORT NARRATIVE

Of an Extraordinary

DELIVERY, &c.

Whatever may be the Fate of this Account, I think myself indispensably obliged to relate the Facts that I saw, and transacted myself, as also the Reasons which first induced me to enquire into the Truth of such an extraordinary Event; but I here declare, that I take on me no other Part of this Narration, than that in which I was actually concerned.

As Mr. *Howard* intends shortly to publish the whole Account, and prove every Circumstance of it, by such Evidences as will put this Matter out of all Possibility of Doubt, I must refer to him for several Particulars here omitted.

And as it will be impossible to judge impartially of this Fact, till the Evidences above-mentioned are produced, it cannot be doubted

but all such Persons as are not governed by Prejudice, or some worse Motive, will suspend their Judgment till these Facts come to their Knowledge by a more certain Way, than by flying Reports and Conjectures.

The first Intelligence I received of this Matter, was on the 5th Instant, when I saw a very particular * Account of a Woman living at *Godliman*, lately delivered of five Rabbits by Mr. *John Howard*, Surgeon, at *Guilford* in *Surrey*, a Man of known Probity, Character, and Capacity in his Profession, who has practised Midwifery for above these thirty Years.

This Account was again confirmed by two † Letters from the said Mr. *Howard*, the first dated *Nov.* the 6th, 4 o'Clock in the Afternoon, the Substance of which is, That from the 4th Instant to the 6th he had delivered the Woman of three more Rabbits; that the last of them had leaped in her Belly for the Space of eighteen Hours before it died, and that the Moment it was taken away, another was perceived to struggle for Birth.

The second is dated *Nov.* the 9th, and is here transcribed *verbatim*, viz.

S I R,

SINCE I wrote to you, I have taken or delivered the poor Woman of three more Rabbits, all three half grown, one of them a

* This Account was taken the 4th Instant at *Guilford* by Mr. *Davenant*.

† The Letters were directed to Mr. *Davenant*.

dun Rabbet; the last leaped twenty-three Hours in the *Uterus* before it died. As soon as the eleventh Rabbet was taken away, up leap'd the twelfth Rabbet, which is now leaping. If you have any curious Person that is pleased to come post, may see another leap in her *Uterus*, and shall take it from her if he pleases, which will be a great Satisfaction to the Curious. If she had been with Child, she has but ten Days more to go, so I do not know how many Rabbits may be behind: I have brought the Woman to *Guilford* for better Convenience.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

JOHN HOWARD.

*If you send a Person, let him
bring a Letter from you.*

These Letters, with others to Persons of Distinction in Town, which all agreed with the above-mentioned, were sufficient to make me desirous of being convinced personally of a Fact of which there was no Instance in Nature. Accordingly, on the 15th Instant, I attended the Honourable Mr. *Molyneux*, Secretary to his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales*, who was inclined to enquire into the Truth of this extraordinary Case, and desired me to go with him to *Guilford*. We arrived there at about half an hour after two in the Afternoon. We sent to Mr. *Howard*, who came to us immediately,

mediately, and told us that the Woman was actually in Labour of the fifteenth Rabbet. We had not been at his House long, before the Nurse who attends the Woman came to call Mr. *Howard* to her, she being then in one of her Labour Pains.

She was lodged over against Mr. *Howard's* House; we found her dressed in her Stays, sitting on the Bed-side, with several Women near her. I immediately examined her, and not finding the Parts prepared for her Labour, I waited for the coming on of fresh Pains, which happened in three or four Minutes, at which Time I delivered her of the entire Trunk, stripped of its Skin, of a Rabbet of about four Months Growth, in which the Heart and Lungs were contained with the Diaphragm entire. I instantly cut off a Piece of them, and tried them in Water; they seemed but just specifically lighter than it, and Mr. *Molyneux* pressing them to the Bottom, they rose again very slowly. The Heart was very large, and its *Foramen Ovale* entirely open; the Lungs were remarkably small, and of a much darker Colour than commonly the Lungs are of such Rabbets who have breathed for some Time. No Person but myself touch'd her, from the first Time that I had examined her, to the Time of her being delivered by me. Her Pains were pretty smart, and lasted for some Minutes; they went off the Moment she was delivered, and she seemed chearful
and

and easy; walked by herself from the Bed-side to the Fire, and sat on a Chair, where I examined her, and found, that in the course of the *Fallopian Tubes* there were some Inequalities, but more sensibly on the Right Side of her Belly; which made me conjecture that the Rabbits were bred in those Tubes, and only came into the *Uterus* when they gave her those Agitations, which, according to the Account of Mr. *Howard*, and of several other Persons, were sensibly felt many Hours before their Exclusion.

As there was no Blood nor Water that issued from the *Vagina*, after I had delivered her, I again examined that Part, and found it not in the least inflamed or lacerated.

Upon examining her Breasts, I found Milk in one of them, but only a little yellowish *Serum* in the other.

Her Pulse was regular, but somewhat low; her Tongue florid; and upon asking for her Water, those about her answered, she made very little, and that they had not saved any.

She informed us, that in the Intervals of her Labour Pains she was tolerably easy, and had no Inclination for any Sort of Food but Beef.

About two Hours after we had left her, they came again to call Mr. *Howard*, she being at that Time in violent Labour Pains; but he and myself were gone to see the Mayor, who was then ill. The Nurse that attended her had delivered her, before our Return, of the
lower

lower Part of a Male Rabbet, which we found to tally with the Trunk which I had before extracted. This was also stript of its Skin, and compleatly perfect in all its Parts, but more manifestly so in those of Generation.

In the *Rectum* of this Animal, which remained affixed to the Body, we found five or six Pellets, much of the same Colour and Consistence as the common Dung of a Rabbet, little Bodies, like dried Fragments, being matted together with a mucous Matter. The like was observed in some other Parts of those Rabbets which had come away before. In the other Bowels there was a dirty-coloured *Mucus*, of the Nature of that which is constantly found in the Bowels of all *fœtus* Animals, and which, in those that void their Excrement in Pellets, is commonly hard and dry; but the Matter in the Guts of the first Animal was of an entire different Kind, Colour and Substance, from any of the rest, this being like little Filaments of an Animal Substance. In the Middle of the Gut *Ilium* of this Creature, I found a very slender, brittle, white Body, of the Length of half an Inch, which in Shape was like very small Fish-bones.

Between six and seven the same Evening we again visited her; we had not been there long, before she fell into violent Labour Pains, inso-much that four or five Persons could hardly confine her to an Arm-chair. As soon as the Violence of the first Pain was somewhat abated,

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I examined her as before, and found the *Vagina* perfectly clear, and the Orifice of the *Uterus* so far closed, as not to admit of the little Finger. I constantly stood before her, nor did any Person whatsoever touch her, during that Time. After three or four very strong Pains, that lasted several Minutes, I delivered her of the Skin of the abovesaid Rabbet, rolled and squeezed up like a Ball, without the least Moisture or Blood about it; upon which she recovered of her Pain.

From that Time I did not stir from before her, nor did I withdraw my Hand, but to deliver the Skin to a Stander by.

About ten Minutes after, as near as I can judge, she again fell into Labour Pains, tho' more sudden and short than the former; at which Time I again delivered her of the Head of the Rabbet, with the Fur on, Part of one of the Ears being torn off, also without any Blood or Moisture: And as to these two Deliveries, and particularly as to the Circumstances of the latter, Mr. *Molyneux* having drawn up an Account of this whole Affair, for his own private Satisfaction, immediately upon our Return to *London*, I beg leave to refer, for the Conviction he had of the Truth thereof, to that Account, which I have his leave to say, he will communicate to any Gentleman that is desirous to peruse it.

After this she soon grew easy, and Mr. *Howard* gave her a sleeping Draught.

About ten in the Evening we saw the Woman for the last Time, she being then in Bed. Having felt her Belly, I found it soft, except those Lumps, which still were in the same Place as before-mentioned.

Between the Times of visiting the Woman, we examined the several Rabbits, which were all kept separate in distinct Pots, with Spirits of Wine, in the Order that they were brought away.

The first Animal did not appear to be a perfect Rabbit in all its Parts, three of the Feet being like the Paws of a Cat, the Stomach and Intestines like those Parts in the same Animal, as also the Shape and Figure of the *Thorax*; the Lungs and Heart of which were entirely out of their natural Situation, and squeezed out between the upper Ribs and *Vertebræ* of the Neck, to which Parts they strongly grew and adhered. The Lungs of this Creature, had they been placed in their natural Cavity, would not have filled above a sixth Part of it: The Bones of this Creature being also different in Substance and Structure from those of common Rabbits, the Head and one Paw only excepted.

All the other thirteen Animals were, in every Particular, like well-formed, common, natural Rabbits, from the Size of two Months Growth to four. They were all broken in Pieces, and much in the same Manner. I shall describe these Pieces in the Order that Mr. *Howard* told

told us they had commonly been brought away. First, the four Paws with the Fur on; then the Liver and Intestines; the Trunk and Shoulders in another Part. In three or four Animals the loins separated from the *Os Sacrum*; and in the rest, the *Ischium* and Thighs in one Piece, with the Loins; the Head with its Fur, and lastly the Skin.

When all these several Parts were put together in their proper Order, they manifestly made up, and appeared to belong to the above-mentioned Animals; but the *Viscera* were wanting in four or five of them. One remarkable Circumstance is, that most of these Animals were Females, as far as I could judge.

The Heart and Liver of those which we examined, appeared much larger than usual, when compared with the *Lungs* and *Intestines* which belonged to them, which on the contrary were extremely small. The *Cæcum* and *Colon*, which are remarkably large in Rabbits, appeared not to exceed in Bigness the other Intestines, and the spiral Structure of the *Cæcum* was not yet unfolded; the Stomach was in like manner much contracted, and its *Pylorus* very streight and narrow. I could not discover, in any of the Livers that I examined, the *Ductus Venosus*, nor the Implantation of the *Umbelical Vein* in that Organ.

I opened three or four of the Hearts, and found in every one of them the *Foramen Ovale*, and the *Ductus Arteriosus* fully open, the two

Trunks of the Descendant *Cava* united at the right Auricle of the Heart, agreeable to that Structure which is peculiar to natural Rabbits, and some few other Animals.

The Flesh of these Creatures, particularly of that which I extracted, had the Smell of Rabbits just killed; and the Substance of their Bones were, in all Respects, like the Bones of *Fætus* Rabbits; in several of them the *Epiphyses* were separated from the Bones themselves.

All the Heads which I examined had their compleat Number of Teeth, four Cutters before, and ten Grinders on each Side, but they appeared not in the least worn nor stained, as the Teeth of other Rabbits are by Mastication.

The Nails of the Paws were most of them exceedingly sharp.

The Skins were all produced, being dressed in Allum; they were of several Colours as to their Fur, which was considerably long, and in one particularly (which was the fifth Rabbit,) that Part which covered the Head was curled.

The Rabbit which I extracted weighed one and twenty Ounces *Avoirdupoize*, making an Allowance for one of the Paws not yet come away, and Part of the *Viscera* that were lost.

From all these Considerations I was fully convinced, that at the same Time that the external Appearance of these Animals was exactly like such Creatures, as must inevitably undergo the Changes that happen to adult Animals, by Food and Air, they carried within them

them the strongest Marks of *Fætus's*, even by such Parts as cannot exist in an Adult, and without which a *Fætus* cannot possibly be supposed to live. This, I think, proves in the strongest Terms possible, that these Animals were of a particular Kind, and not bred in a natural May; nor will there be any Doubt remaining (even with the least knowing in these Watters) when those Parts which are subservient to the Circulation of the Blood, and Nourishment between an adult Creature and its *Fætus* are brought away, which I am fully satisfied must shortly happen, or, if retained, be the Cause of this Woman's Death.

All these Facts were verified before his Majesty, on *Saturday Nov.* the 26th, by the anatomical Demonstration of the first, the third, fifth, and ninth of these Animals, which were compared with the Parts of two natural Rabbits, the one of the Age of four Months, and the other of five Days, Dr. *Steigerthal* and Dr. *Tessier* being present.

I shall with all convenient Speed publish the Anatomy of these præternatural Rabbits, with their Figures taken from the Life, and compared with the Parts of Rabbits of the same Growth, that the Differences beforementioned may be fully understood.

In the mean while, I shall relate what appeared in the Dissection of two Rabbits, which I performed in the Presence of Mr. *Molyneux*, the very Day that we returned from *Guilford*;
the

the one was of four Months growth, and much of the Size of that which I had taken from the Woman, the other was barely fifteen Days old. The Lungs of the larger were, as nearly as I can judge, twenty times bigger in Capacity than those of the præternatural one, and the Lungs of the smaller were at least eight times the bigness of the forementioned; both these were exceedingly different, in Colour and Consistench, from those of the præternatural Rabbet.

The *Foramen Ovale* of the smaller Rabbet was more than two thirds open, and that in the larger was so far closed, as but just to admit a very small Probe.

As to the Stomach and Intestines, the Difference was so notoriously great from those we had examined, that even in the sucking Rabbet, the Stomach and *Cæcum* were at least three times larger than those Parts in the præternatural ones.

I shall give no other Account of the Woman, than what I think pertinent to this Subject. By the several Questions which I put to her, I was informed, that she was born and bred at *Godlyman*; she seemed to be of a healthy strong Constitution, of a small Size, and fair Complexion, of a very stupid and fullen Temper: She can neither write nor read: She has been married about six Years to one *Joshua Toft*, junior, a poor Journeyman Clothier at *Godlyman*, by whom she has had three Children. The Account she further gave
of

of herself, was, that on the 23d of *April* last, as she was weeding in a Field, she saw a Rabbet spring up near her, after which she ran, with another Woman that was at work just by her; this set her a longing for Rabbets, being then, as she thought, five Weeks gone with Child. The other Woman perceiving we was uneasy, charged her with longing for the Rabbet they could not catch, but she denied it. Soon after another Rabbet sprung up near the same Place, which she endeavoured likewise to catch. The same Night she dreamt she was in a Field with those two Rabbets in her Lap, and awaked with a sick Fit, which lasted till Morning; from that Time, for above three Months, she had a constant and strong Desire to eat Rabbets, but being very poor and indigent, could not procure any. About seventeen Weeks after her Longing, she was taken with a Flooding and violent Cholic Pains, which made her to miscarry of a Substance that she said was like a large Lump of Flesh. Three Weeks after this, she was again taken with a Flooding, and voided another Substance like the former, but not so large. Notwithstanding these Accidents, she did not perceive herself to grow less, but continued with the Symptoms of a breeding Woman; insomuch that in the Beginning of *September*, as she was working in the Hop-ground, the Milk flowed profusely from her Breasts; and as she had Children before, she thought she felt very differently from

from what she used to do. That on the 27th of *September* last she was taken very ill in the Night, and sent for her Mother-in-law, who is a Midwife, and a neighbouring Woman, at which time she voided somewhat, which she took to be the Lights and Guts of a Pig, which her Husband carried to Mr. *Howard*, who some Days afterwards came to her, and delivered her of some Parts of the Animal first mentioned. After a Fortnight she was church-ed, and thought all was over with her. She told me that her Husband had not cohabited with her from the Time of her first Miscarriage; and that after the first Rabbet was brought away, she had one regular menstrual Evacuation.

The Account Mr. *Howard* gave was, in every material Circumstance, the same with the Woman's Relation. He said, the Guts and Liver (as he thought) of a Rabbet were brought to him, but he never knew or heard of the Woman or her Friends till then, and that at first he took this to be intended as an Imposition upon him, but was at last with much Persuasion prevailed on to go to assist her at *Godlyman*; that he did accordingly deliver her of Part of the first Rabbet; that he attended her at *Godlyman*, till she was delivered of the ninth Rabbet; but that it being very inconvenient to attend her there, which made him neglect all his other Business, he had brought her to *Guilford* for better Conveniency.

Mr.

Mr. *Howard* further related, that when she was delivered of one Rabbet, another was immediately felt in her Belly, struggling with such Violence, that the Motion thereof could be sensibly felt and seen ; that this Motion has sometimes been so strong, as to move the Bed-clothes, and that it has lasted for twenty and above thirty Hours together. This particular Fact was unanimously agreed on, and attested by most of the People at *Guilford*, who have had the Curiosity to go to see her, and was confirmed to Mr. *Molyneux* and myself by above ten different Persons, who all seemed to be indifferent in this Matter.

Mr. *Howard* further told me, that, during this Motion, she was always free from Pain, and chearful ; but that immediately upon the ceasing of it, she grew sick, and soon began to perceive her Labour-pains drawing near ; that upon her first Pains, the Bones of the Animal were sensibly heard to snap and break by the violent convulsive Motions of the *Uterus*. This last Circumstance was likewise related by the same Persons that attested the former. He further added, that she had four Breakings of Waters in the coming of the Rabbits, altho' in no great Quantity.

On *Wednesday* the 23d Instant, I set out again for *Guilford*, with Mr. *D'Anteny*, being resolved to bring the Woman to Town, if there was any further Prospect of more Rabbits. We arrived there at one in the Afternoon,

and we found Mr. *Howard* standing at his Door, who told us, that she had been delivered of two more Rabbits since I had seen her, and that he hoped all was over, being he did not perceive in the *Uterus* any Motion as usual. I visited her several times that Day, and proceeded in every respect as before; her Pains, which, when I saw her the first Time, were mixed with Intervals of Quiet and Rest, now were constant and fixed on the right Side of her Belly; her Pulse was more irregular; she described her Pain as if very coarse brown Paper was tearing from within her. Towards eight o'Clock that Evening she voided a Piece of one of the Membranes of a *Placenta*, rolled up like Parchment; when it was extended, it measured about six Inches over. The next Morning, as I was packing up some of the Rabbits to bring to Town with me, Mr. *Howard* was sent for over, and Mr. *D'Anteny*, Dr. *Hampe*, and myself attended him. We found her in exquisite Torture, and after seven or eight Minutes, she was again disburthened of a Membrane, in Structure, Shape and Size exactly like the former. This was the first Part that I saw come from her with some Effusion of Blood. She did not seem in the least relieved after this Operation, her Pulse continued irregular, her Tongue white, and her Urine deeply stained with a *Mucus* and livid *Blood*.

Mr. *Ablers* having been at *Guilford*, by his Majesty's Order, (as Mr. *Howard* told us) to enquire

enquire into the Truth of this Fact, was fully convinced of it, as he himself declared, having assisted the greatest Part of *Sunday* the 20th Instant, at the Delivery of some of the 16th Rabbet, which he brought to Town with him. But as on this Occasion his Behaviour has been represented here different from what it was at *Guilford*, I cannot better vindicate that Gentleman's Character, than by subjoining the following Affidavits, which were taken in the Presence of Mr. *D'Anteny* and Dr. *Hampe*. And that the Truth, so far as it relates to this Point, may be known, I think he is strictly obliged, in Justice to the Public, forthwith to give an Account of what he saw and transacted there, as I here have done.

London, Monday
Nov. 28, 1726.

N. ST. ANDRE.

I Have carefully read the above Narrative. Whether the Animals mentioned therein were præternaturally produced in this Woman, or that a Fraud is practicable in this Case, I do not take upon me to say: Gentlemen who are sufficient Judges will determine that Matter upon proper Evidence. I can only certify, That I did draw up a Relation as is above-mentioned, which, in the most material Circumstances of Fact, agrees with this Narrative; and I can further affirm, that I did not perceive the least Circumstance of Fraud in the Conduct of this Affair while I was at *Guilford*.

Nov. 29, 1726.

S. MOLYNEUX.

Guilford
in Com.
Surrey.

ff. *JOHN HOWARD* of *Guilford*, in the County
of *Surrey*, Surgeon, maketh Oath, That on
Sunday, the 20th Day of this instant, Month of
November, at or about ten o'Clock in the Morn-
ing, he, this Deponent, was called home to a
Person who told him his Name was *Ablers*; that
he came to see *Mary Toft*; that he was ordered
by his Majesty to attend her till all was over;
and that he was Surgeon to his Majesty's *German*
Houshold. And this Deponent saith, That, at
that very Time, the Nurse of the said *Mary*
Toft came to acquaint this Deponent, that the
said *Mary Toft* was in Labour: And thereupon
this Deponent carried the said Mr. *Ablers* over to
her with him, and having touched her in his
Presence, desired him to examine her, for that he
found all things ready for a Delivery. That
Mr. *Ablers* did accordingly examine; but this
Deponent finding that he did not hasten her De-
livery, nor that he proceeded as one who un-
derstands Midwifry should do, this Deponent
directed him how to proceed in the Extraction,
which, after some time, Mr. *Ablers* effected, hav-
ing brought away the Loins and inferior Parts of
a Rabbet, of about three Months Growth. That
after this Mr. *Ablers* told this Deponent, and all
the Persons present, that he was fully satisfied,
and convinced of the Truth, and that he could
have no Doubts after such Proofs. That, at the
same time, he gave the Woman a Guinea, ex-
pressing great Satisfaction, and promising that
he would procure her a Pension from his Ma-
jesty: That he repeated the same Things to
Mr. *Tho. Howard* in this Deponent's Presence,
nor did he offer any Objections or Doubts to
them. That some time after Mr. *Ablers* desired
to

' to touch the Woman again; but as at the time
 ' before he had put her to a great deal of unne-
 ' cessary Pain, this Deponent desired him to for-
 ' bear. That some time after Mr. *Ablers* said he
 ' was not well, and that he must hasten back to
 ' *London*. That this Deponent pressed him to stay,
 ' that he might assist at the bringing away of the
 ' Remainder of the Rabbet, but could not prevail
 ' on him; and soon after he accordingly set out
 ' for *London*, although it was almost dark.

JOHN HOWARD.'

Jur. vicesimo quinto die Novembris,
Anno Reg. Regis Geo. 3^o. 13.
Anno Dom. 1726. coram

JOS. BURTT, Mayor.
 JAMES CLIFFTON.

' *MARY TOFT*, the Wife of *Joshua Toft*, of
 ' *Godlyman* in the County of *Surrey*, Cloth-
 ' worker, and *Mary Costin*, Nurse to the said *Mary*
 ' *Toft*, severally make Oath, That Mr. *Ablers* de-
 ' clared it was wonderful People would not be-
 ' lieve a Fact that was so true as this appeared to
 ' him, and the said *Mary Toft* saith, That Mr.
 ' *Ablers* examined her Breasts, and found Milk in
 ' one of them.

The Mark of
Mary † Toft.

The Mark of
Mary + Costen.'

Jur. Die 3^o Anno supradict. coram.

JOS. BURTT, Mayor.
 JAMES CLIFFTON.

Guilford
in Com.
Surrey.

ff. *ELIZABETH HELMES* of *Guilford*, in the
County of *Surrey*, Widow, maketh Oath,
That on *Sunday*, the 20th Day of this instant,
November, at about four in the Afternoon, she
asked Mr. *Ablers*, who dined then at her House,
bearing the Sign of the *White Heart*, whether he
believed this Account; and his Answer was,
That he fully did believe it. To which this De-
ponent replied; Then, I hope, Sir, you will
convince a great many Unbelievers when you
return to *London*, as some other Gentlemen have
already done; to which he said he should, as
this Deponent apprehended.

ELIZ. HELMES.

Jur. vicesimo quinto die Novembris
An. Reg. Regis Geo. 3. Anno
Domini, 1726. coram.

JOS. BURTT, Mayor.
JAMES CLIFFTON.

OLIVE SANDS, the Wife of *John Sands* of
Guilford in the County of *Surrey*, Sadler,
maketh Oath, That she was constantly in the
Room on *Sunday* the 20th instant with Mr. *Ab-*
lers, from eleven in the Morning to three in the
Afternoon. That Mrs. *Helmes* called him to
Dinner; that during the whole time the Woman
was in violent Labour, and that he did not leave
her in all that time but to go to Dinner. That
this Deponent says, Mr. *Ablers* examined the
Woman's Ereafts, and found Milk in one of
them, and that she heard him say, he was or-
dered by his Majesty to attend the said Woman,
Mary Toft, till it was all over. And further
saith,

' faith, that the said Mr. *Ablers* said he would en-
 ' deavour to get the Woman a Pension from his
 ' Majesty, or Words to that Effect, on his seem-
 ' ing satisfied of the Misery the Woman underwent.

OLIVE SANDS.

Jur. Die & Anno
supradict. coram

JOS. BURTT, Mayor.

JAMES CLIFFTON.

' **THOMAS HOWARD** of *Guilford* in the County *Guilford*
 ' of *Surrey*, Surgeon, maketh Oath, That on *in Com. } ff.*
 ' *Sunday* the 20th Day of this instant, Month of *Surrey.*
 ' *November*, this Deponent went to see the poor
 ' miserable Woman *Mary Toft*, about three of the
 ' Clock in the Afternoon, where he found in her
 ' Chamber one Mr. *Ablers*, a Surgeon, who told
 ' this Deponent he was come to see her the said
 ' Woman, and that he was ordered by his Ma-
 ' jesty to attend her till it was all over. That the
 ' said Mr. *Ablers* himself, in the aforesaid Cham-
 ' ber, shewed this Deponent the Loins and infe-
 ' rior Parts of a Rabbet, which he told this De-
 ' ponent HE EXTRACTED HIMSELF OUT OF THE
 ' UTERUS. That this Deponent asked him, what
 ' his Opinion was in this Case? To which he an-
 ' swered, and told this Deponent, HE WAS FULLY
 ' CONVINCED AND SATISFIED THAT IT CAME
 ' OUT OF THE UTERUS. That then the Deponent
 ' asked him, if it was possible it could be forced
 ' or thrust into the *Uterus*? To which his Answer
 ' was, No. That after this Deponent was with
 ' him at the *White-Hart Inn* in *Guilford*, and there
 ' Mr. *Ablers* repeated part of what he had said be-
 ' fore.

fore. That this Deponent there pressed him very much to stay all Night, to take away all the rest of the Parts of the aforesaid Rabbet: Upon which he said he had a Giddiness, and a turning round in his Head with a Pain on his Neck and Shoulders, and a Soreness of his Throat, which made him very uneasy, and that he was resolved to go back to *London*. That the said Mr. *Ablers* gave the Woman Money, and told her he would procure her a Pension, and so took his leave of her. And this Deponent saith, that the said Mr. *Ablers* went from *Guilford* about five of the Clock in the Afternoon.

THO. HOWARD.

Jur. vicesimo septimo die Novembris
Anno Reg. Regis Geo. &c. 13. Anno
Domini, 1726. coram.

JOS. BURTT, Mayor.
 JAMES CLIFFTON.

F I N I S.

