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a woman near Guildford in Surrey having been delivered of 7 creatures resembling rabbits, last Friday Mr André, the kings surgeon and anatomist went down thither to see them. They are preserved in spirits.

Parkers Penny Post. 14. Nov. 1726

From Guildford comes a strange, but well attested piece of news that a poor woman who lives at Godalmin near that town who has an husband and two children now living with her was about a month past delivered by Mr John Howard an eminent surgeon and man midwife living at Guildford of a creature resembling a rabbit, but whose heart and lungs grew without its belly. About 14 days since she was delivered by the same person of a perfect rabbit and in a few days after of 4 more, and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 4. 5. and 6 instant of one in each day, in all nine. They died all in bringing into the world. Mr Howard keeps them all in spirits, and we hear he intends to present them to the Royal Society. The woman hath made oath, that 2 months ago, being working in a field with other women they put up a rabbit, who running from them they pursued it but to no purpose. This created in her such a longing to it, that she (being with child) was taken ill and miscarried, and from that time she hath not been able to avoid thinking of rabbits.

Daily Journal. 14. Nov. 1726.

Same statement. London Journal or British Gazetteer
19 Nov. 1726.

Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer 19 Nov. 1726
adds. "The said woman has been delivered of 5
more rabbits, in all 14. Mr. Molineux the Princes
Secretary is we hear gone thither by his royal high
ness order to bring a faithful narrative of the
affair."

Mists Weekly Journal. 19 Nov. 1726. for this addi-
tion substitutes. "People after all differ much in
their opinion about this matter, some looking up
on them as great curiosities fit to be presented to
the royal Society, &c. Others are angry at the ac-
count and say that if it be fact, a veil should
be drawn over it, as an imperfection in human
nature." The paragraph mentioning M. Howard
is omitted.

The following is an abstract of part of a letter from
Mr John Howard, surgeon and manmidwife in
Guildford to a relation of his in London. (relating
to the monstrous births near Guildford. Parkers
Penny post 28. Nov.).

Guildford 22. Nov. 1726. This morning I delivered
the poor woman in Guildford of the 17th rabbit -
which I believe may be the last. On Sunday I had
in his coach Mr Ahlers surgeon to the Kings hous
hold he came by the Kings orders, he took part of
the 16th rabbit from her and carried it to Kensing-
ton. He was to have staid till all was over, but being
taken ill returned the same night. Last Saturday
I had Mr St Andre' his Majesty's Anatomist, by the

kings orders, who took part of one from her, which weighed 22 ounces, and were both satisfied in the truth of the wondrous delivery, as was Mr. Molineux secretary to the Prince, who was also here. I hear they have made their report to the king and the Prince.

Daily Journal. 26 Nov. 1726.

so that the truth of this monstrous produce of nature mentioned in this paper a few days since, is not to be doubted of.

Parkers Penny Post. 28 Nov. 1726

On Tuesday night the woman who hath been delivered of so many rabbits at Godalmin was by order of his Majesty brought to town and lodged in the bagnio in Leicester fields. Sir Richard Manningham, Mr. St Andre and Mr. Howard came with her. Great numbers of the nobility have been to see her and many physicians have attended her in order to make a strict search into the affair, another birth being soon expected.

Daily Journal. 2. Dec. 1726

London Journal 3. Dec. 1726

Parkers Penny Post. 5 Dec. 1726.

The woman that has been delivered of 17 rabbits at Godalmin is come to town by order of his Majesty and is lodged at the Bagnio in Long Acre where there is a good resort to see her and many physicians attend her in order to make a strict search into the affair, another birth being soon expected.

Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer 3. Dec. 1726

The rabbit woman of Godalmin near Guildford so much talked of is brought to this city, and lodged at the Bagnio in Leicester fields and is bringing

forth more and more rabbits. a fine story!! ore
dat Iudæus apella.

British Journal. 3. Dec. 1726.

Rabbits or no rabbits has been the great dispute
this week; the extraordinary woman that has been
delivered of so many at Godalmin is brought to
town by his majestys order that a strict enquiry
may be made into the affair

Mists weekly Journal. 3. Dec. 1726.

On Friday night a circumstance appeared in the
affair of the woman who hath been delivered of the
rabbits (and as yet remains in the Bagno by Leices-
ter fields) which gave good reason to suspect the whole
affair being a cheat on which many persons were
examined on oath relating thereto. as we have said
nothing in this affair but what hath been said, we
can assure our readers that its far from being de-
tected but remains as yet as much in the dark as
ever. The woman is under management as will
soon appear whether this affair hath been forged
or not.

Daily Journal 7. Dec.

We are now well informed of what has been said
relating to the woman of Godalmin, near Guild-
ford said to be delivered of 16 or 17 rabbits is found
to be only a grand imposture and cheat. The mat-
ter is now under strict examination some odd
discoveries having been made insomuch that she
was on Monday in danger of being committed
to Bridewell but by the lenity of Sir Thomas
Clarges is for a fortnight committed to the cus-
tody of the high constable of Westminster pretend-
ing she is near her labour of more rabbits. It is

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likewise said that the Guildford surgeon, the rabbit-man midwife is bound over. Doctors and surgeons are permitted to see her if they come three in company. The further discoveries of this imposture shall be given as they come to be known which tis believed will afford matter of diversion.

Parkers Penny Post. 7. Dec. 1726.

The woman from Godalmin in Surrey said to have been delivered of seventeen rabbits is continued at the Bagnio in Leicester fields in custody of the high constable of Westminster who hath ordered a petty constable to take care of her. Last wednesday she made a large discovery of the cheat; her confession taking up several sheets of paper; but we hear she refuses to name her confederates till she is assured of his majestys pardon. The Porter belonging to the Bagnio whom she sent to market with all imaginable secrecy to buy the youngest rabbit for her he could get contributed much to the discovery and several noblemen have been very active therein, not willing that so vile an imposture should pass for truth.

British Journal 10. Dec. 1726

— not willing that so vile an imposture, able to mislead on human nature, should pass for truth, and as such be inserted in our histories.

Daily Post. 8. Dec. 1726

Weekly Journal or Brit. Gazetteer. 10. Dec.

Mists Journal. 10 Dec. ends with "discovery"

The woman from Godalmin who pretended to have been delivered of 17 rabbits and was brought up to town in order to have that affair strictly examined into has been detected an Mrs St. Andre the surgeon

likewise said that the Council had suggested the transfer
of the building to the State and that the State had
the intention to see that the building was transferred
to the State. The further discussion of this subject
is not on the order of the day. It is a subject which is
well known to the Council.

President Henry Bell 7 Dec 1925

The Council has been informed by the State that the
State has decided to transfer the building to the State
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who published an account of her wonderful delivery has promised a particular account of the pawns she used and by what means she imposed upon him and the public. meanwhile we are assured the woman refuses to make any discovery without a promise of his majestys pardon for herself and accomplices.

London Journal 10. Dec. 1726

The examination and confession of Mary, the wife of Joshua Toft of Godalmin, Clothier, relating to the pretended delivery of many rabbits having been laid before his majesty she was on Thursday night last committed to Tothil fields Bridewell where Sir Thomas Clarges, Bart. and Nicholas Poxton Esq. went yesterday in the afternoon to examine her farther about that wicked imposture.

a woman at Guildford has had a monstrous delivery of a child since this abominable contrivance has been on foot.

Daily Journal 10. Dec. 1726

Parkers Penny Post 12 Dec. 1726

Yesterday the rabbit woman from Godalmin in Surrey was removed from the Bagno in Leicester-fields to Tothil fields Bridewell

Daily Post. 10. Dec. 1726

Having contributed in some measure to the belief of an imposture in a Narrative lately published by me of an extraordinary delivery of rabbits performed by Mr. Howard a surgeon of Guildford and having been since instrumental in discovering the same so that I am now thoroughly convinced it is a most abominable fraud I think myself obliged in strict

regard to truth to acquaint the public thereof,
and that I intend in a short time to publish a
full account of this discovery with some consider-
ations on the extraordinary circumstances of this
case which misled me in my apprehension there-
of and which as I hope they will in some mea-
sure excuse the mistake made by myself and
others who have visited the woman concerned
therein will also be acceptable to the world in
separating the innocent from those who have
been actors in this fraud

Dec. 8. 1726

St André

Daily Journal. 9 Dec. 1726

Daily Post - 10 Dec. 1726

Whereas Mr. St André in his Narrative lately publish-
ed of an extraordinary delivery of rabbits has made
use of my name. I do hereby declare that this has been
done without my knowledge and consent which I
never should have given in a matter the truth of
which I did not believe.

London. 13 Dec. 1726.

J. Hampe. M.D.

Daily Post. 13. Dec. 1726

Intending in a short time to publish to the world a
particular account of all that occurred to my know-
ledge relating to Mary Toft of Godalmin I do now
declare I have discovered some circumstances which
strongly induce me to believe her an imposture, and
that myself as well as Mr. St André and others was im-
posed upon by the cunning artifice of her and her ac-
complices and that I think myself obliged as far as
in me lies to satisfy the world of what has inclined me
to believe the whole a notorious cheat, which I hope will
convince the world that I am ready to separate the

Last week the entertainment called *The Necromancer* was performed at the Theatre in *Lincolns Inn Fields* wherein a new Rabbit scene was introduced by way of episode. — by which the public may understand as much of that affair, as by the present controversy among the gentlemen of the faculty who are stinging their bitter pills at one another to convince the world that none of them understand any thing of the matter.

Mist weekly Journal 17 Dec. 1726.

innocent from ^{any} ~~that~~ may have been guilty actors therein and do solemnly declare that I shall be always ready to take both my oath and the sacrament that I am entirely clear of having any hand in the imposture but did really believe the truth of the production of the rabbits till lately such discoveries have been made to me of several particular circumstances as convince me that it is a fraud.

Dec. 15. 1726

J. Howard

Daily Post. 19. Dec. 1726

Mary Toft the rabbit woman is ordered to be prosecuted upon a statute of Edward III as a vile cheat and impostor. The learned gentlemen who find themselves mistaken at last in their judgments of that affair are healing their reputations as well as they can by writing of pamphlets.

mists Weekly Journal 17 Dec.

A prosecution is ordered to be carried on in the court of Kings Bench, next Hilary term against Mary Toft of Godalmin for an infamous cheat and imposture in pretending to have brought forth 17 preternatural rabbits. She is still detained a prisoner in Bridewell where none but the keepers wife is permitted to go into the room to deliver anything to her; the infinite crowds of people that resort to see her not being suffered to approach her too near and more especially her husband who is strictly searched when he comes to the prison.

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer | 21. Dec. 1726 |
| British Journal | 21. " " |
| London Journal | 21. " " |
| Daily Journal | 20. Dec. |
| Parkers Penny Post. | 21 Dec. |

Several people who have entered into an opinion of the miraculous delivery of the woman of this place seem unwilling to give into the belief of its being a fraud; the nurse has been examined as to the persons concerned with her, but either was kept in the dark as to the imposition, or is not willing to declare what she knows; for nothing can be got from her; so that her resolution shocks others. But we are informed that she and the surgeons apprentice, whose master is admitted to Bail will be sent for to London to be more strictly examined

Guildford, 19. Dec.

Mist's weekly Journal, 22. Dec. 1726

At the general quarter sessions of the peace held for the city and liberty of Westminster by adjournment on Saturday last, (7 Jan) Mary Test charged upon oath for being an abominable cheat and impostor in pretending to be delivered of several monstrous births at several times was brought from Bridewell to the Sessions and was by the court remanded back to Bridewell; and we are informed that there will be an information preferred against her and others the next term for a conspiracy and misdemeanour in contriving & carrying on the aforesaid cheat and that they will be tryed at the next assizes for the county of Surrey.

Mr Howard the surgeon appeared also in court upon his recognizances upon suspicion of being concerned in the said conspiracy and cheat and was obliged to enter into a fresh recognizance of £ 800 to appear and answer the same in the court of Kings bench next term.

British Journal, 14. Jan. 1727.

Last Saturday (7 Jan) the famous rabbit woman of Godalmin was brought up to the sessions at Westminster where the famous surgeon of Guildford appeared

also, and, having entered their pleas, the first was sent back to Bridewell and the latter admitted to fresh recognizances in order to take their tryals (we suppose) at the assizes to be held for the county of Surrey for a late mysterious piece of iniquity.

mists weekly Journal. 14 Jan. 1747

Mr. Howard the surgeon of Guildford appeared before the bench of Justices last Saturday at Westminster sessions and was obliged to enter into a fresh recognizance of £800 to appear and answer to a charge of his being concerned in the cheat and conspiracy of Mary Toft the rabbit woman; a constable having made an affidavit of an odd sort of a conversation he heard pass between the said Mr. Howard and Mary Toft through a partition at the Bagno in Leicester-fields.

Daily Journal 11 Jan. 1727

Parkers Penny Post 13. " "

Weekly Journal. 14 " "

On Monday (23 Jan) (being the first day of Term, weekly Journal 28 Jan) Mr John Howard of Guildford surgeon and madmidwife appeared upon his recognizances at the Kings bench bar at Westminster and was continued on them.

Weekly Journal 28 Jan. 1727

British Journal 28 " "

Daily Journal 24 " "

Parkers Penny Post 25 " "

Mary Toft the pretended rabbit breeder is now dangerously ill in Bridewell.

Daily Journal 24 Jan. 1727

Parkers Penny Post 25 " "

Mary Toft the rabbit woman now in Tothill fields Bridewell was not carried to Guildford to be tryed at the assizes there last week as was

expected it being not yet determined what statutes she and her confederates will be hanged upon.

Parkers Penny Post. 29 March 1727.

Mary Toft the pretended rabbit breeder from Godalmin in Surrey was last Saturday (8 April) discharged from her recognizances at the Quarter sessions at Westminster there being no prosecution

Parkers Penny Post 14. Apr. 1727

Weekly Journal 15 " "

British Journal. 15 " "

London Journal 15. " "

Last Monday (15 May) being the last day of term Mr John Howard of Guildford surgeon and manmidwife moved by his counsel to be discharged from his recognizances and having given the usual notice he was accordingly discharged without any prosecution

Parkers Penny Post 19 May 1727

Weekly Journal 20 " "

British Journal 20 " "

The same day (18 May) there was a tryal in the court of Common Pleas at Westminster between Mr Lacy Master of the Bagnio in Leicester fields Plaintiff and Mr Scandru the surgeon defendant in relation to a bill of charge brought by the former for lodging diet and expences attending the affair of the pretended rabbit woman. The jury gave a verdict for Mr. Lacy with £56. 14. 10 damage.

London Journal 20 May 1727

British Journal " " "

Parkers Penny Post. 22. " "

The celebrated Tabbet woman of Godalmin in
Surrey was committed to Guildford Goal for re-
ceiving stolen goods.

Weekly miscellany 19 ap. 1740

' Last week died at Godalming in Surrey, Mary
Tolls, formerly noted for an imposition of breeding
Rabbits.

Gazettes or Daily London Advertiser

21. Jan. 1763.

Concerning the Rabbits is now published.

The true account how it really happened that the woman at Godliman, near Guildford in Surrey could have eighteen real true and living rabbits within her, and of which she was really and truly delivered lately by Mr Howard, surgeon and Man midwife of Guildford and Mr S. Andre, Surgeon to the king. 'Tis given gratis up one pair of stairs at the Anodyne necklace for childrens teeth over against Devereux Court, without Temple Bar, and by the authors servant R. Bradshaw at the Golden Key by Russell Street end, St Giles in the fields.

Mist Weekly Journal 10 Dec. 1726

at the end of an advertisement of this Anodyne necklace &c follows. "Where is given gratis the account of the whole affair of the rabbit and the pictures of the woman herself, Mary Toft, and the rabbits, and of the persons who attended her during her pretended deliveries"

Mist Weekly Journal 17 Dec. 1726

The rabbit affair made clear, in a full account of the whole matter, with the pictures engraved of the pretended rabbit breeder herself, Mary Toft, and of the rabbits and of the persons who attended her during her pretended delivery shewing who were and who were not imposed upon by her. 'Tis given gratis &c as in former advertisements.

Mist Journal 14 Jan. 1727.

The original drawing from which the Plate promised in Mist Journal was taken, remained in the possession of Mr James Vertue, and was probably designed by his brother George. It was sold in 1781 in the collection of George Scott Esq. of Chigwell in Essex, together with eight tracts relative to the same

imposture, for three guineas, and is now in the collection of Mr. Gough.

Nichols Genuine Works of Hogarth. V. 2. p. 51.

Nichols is here mistaken; the drawing which is, with Mr Goughs collection, in the Bodleian, is that afterwards engraved and called "The Surrey Wonder".

The print mentioned in the Anodyne necklace advertisement, and which was perhaps the first published upon this subject, I have never seen; but I have a Mss copy of what is called a very rare tract at the top of which is a small drawing, I suspect these to be the Tract and picture mentioned in the advertisement. E.H. I have since seen the original tract in Mr Stevens collection of the Tost pamphlets. E.H.

This day is published, printed from a copper plate, The Surrey Wonder, an anatomical Fair, as it was dissected at the Theatre in Lincolns Inn fields

The mountains laboured and the mouse crept forth
Printed and sold by J. Clark, engraver and print seller in Grays Inn, London. Where may be had, Another print on this subject, with a great variety of maps, paints and drawings.

Mists Journal Dec. 31. 1726.

The other print mentioned in the advertisement is probably the one where M. Petit is delivering a letter to Dr Meagre, which was also published by J. Clark.

The fourth print published was probably Hogarths. Cunicularii or The wise men of Godliman in consultation

They held their Talents most adroit
For any mystical Exploit.

institutions for their government and as such in the
interests of the people.

It is also to be noted that the government is
not only a body of men but a body of ideas.

The first principle in the constitution is that
the government is a body of men and not a body of
ideas. It is a body of men who are to be
responsible for the government and not the
ideas themselves. It is a body of men who are to
be responsible for the government and not the
ideas themselves.

This is a very important principle and it is
one which is often forgotten. It is a principle
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The second principle in the constitution is that
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ideas themselves.

The next print was probably "The Doctors in labour; or a New Whim Wham from Guildford. Being a representation of the Frauds by which the Godliman woman carried on her pretended rabbit breeding; also of the simplicity of our Doctors, by which they assisted to carry on that imposture, discovered their own skill, & contributed to the mirth of his Majesty's Liege Subjects". It exhibits in twelve compartments the progress and principal circumstances in this celebrated imposture.

The pretended rabbit-breeder, in order to perpetuate her fame, has had her picture done in a curious mezzotinto print by an able hand.

Mist's Journal 21 Jan. 1727.

It was painted by Laguerre and scraped by Faber. She has a rabbit on her lap, and displays a countenance of the utmost vulgarity.

Nicholls's Hogarth. V. II. p. 52.

The Surrey Wonder is supposed to have been suppressed because one of the figures bore a resemblance to Frederick Prince of Wales.

