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AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON

Sygnancy.

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Pregnancy.

The great varieties of the female constitution occasion pregnancy to be, to a few of the sex, of no trouble or distress, through the whole period of child-bearing; but it is to others often a continual imaginary disease, being, perhaps, more or less disturbed, distressed, in their sensibilities from the peculiar irritability of their habit.

From again experience, quite soon after conception, such a change in the state of the stomach, or in their feelings in general, as apprises them of their situation.

The woman is troubled, with heartburn, acidity, anorexia,

and sometimes has a craving for al-
-ment. The former did not desire.

She is usually sick in the mor-
-ning, ^{and} generally is troubled, ~~to wit~~
by nausea & vomiting. Soon after she gets
-up, though some vary, having no
-sickness until in the afternoon,

Sudden feelings of faintness
-sickness occur at different tim-
-es in the day.

The bowels also become con-
-stipated. Some instead of being
-sick or in addition to the fits
-of sickness are troubled, by a
-profuse action of the Salivary gl-
--lands, and consequently are frequ-
-ently Spitting, with toothache, cou-
-gh or other affections.

The time to which these ste-
-nos varies, as well as the period of

which they take place.

In the constitution of those who are young and healthy, one of the most early symptoms of the incipient stage of pregnancy, as well as ~~well~~ the most reliable is an ~~in-~~crease in the breast somewhat differing from what she may have usually have observed, on ^{the} cessation of menstruation and soon attended with some sensible addition to the unnatural fullness of the small glands around the nipple; also another peculiarity more reliable, than any of the signs of pregnancy; the areola or dark circle around each nipple, also about this time a milky fluid is secreted, which was not before observed.

These occurrences may justly excite
in the mind a clear apprehension
of the existence of pregnancy,
after which the suppression
of the menses, will more clear-
ly evince the existence of preg-
nancy, though however the abo-
ve may take place from other caus-
es; hence, though we conclude in
the language of Prof. J. M. Watson,
that she who is regular is not pre-
gnant, we cannot infer to a certai-
nity; that she ^{who} is obstructed, is
conceived.

A woman not pregnant may
accidentally not menstruate
for one or two periods,
but in such a case the other le-
ading signs are usually absent,
at all events the fourth month

^{we may}
~~we~~ all conclusively ascertain
by submitting our patient to the
stethoscope, when we may easily
detect the sound of the foetal
heart.

Whenever ill health declares itself,
generally the menses are sup-
pressed, or in some way der-
anged; but in such cases the pr-
ominent symptoms of preg-
nancy are wanting, whilst
the symptoms of the accomp-
anying disease point out the
nature of the case.

This is a condition which
may offer, for a time, some
doubt, and that is when, the
woman has really conceived,
but the embryo has almost im-
mediately perished, yet has not

come away, but, together with blood in the uterus, mistaken into a somewhat firm bud, Straps snaps termed a mole on false conception.

About the end of the fourth month or but a short time, before or after, the motion of the child may be perceived, which is properly regarded, as the most reliable of all signs.

But occasionally we have heard it remarked, in those who were anxious to imagine themselves pregnant, that they were sensible of this motion, when really, the cause should have been attributed, to wind passing along the bowels.

"The sensation peculiar^{to} quickening, is at first attended by faintness it may be recognized at any time, and may either be repeated regularly or may not be again observed, for several days, though this action may be revived, by dipping the hand in cold water, and placing it over the abdomen, this period, is called quickening not as I would suppose because the child at this time begins to live, for it takes on life from the first, though this motion is not perceptible, until this advanced period of pregnancy: because it has required this time from an order of nature, until it

might acquire sufficient power, to render its existence recognized.

Nature is so kind, we might imagine supplies thus easily noticed, for useful purposes, and I would conjecture for the cause of entiding the mother's attention in order that she may observe proper protecting caution, that she might not disturb the tender embryo; by observing & such causes of injury as sudden alarm, fatigue or whatever might derange her health.

The development of the foetus goes on very rapidly.
At the end of the fifth mon.

The size of the foetus is nearly double what it was at the completion of four months, the size is also much augmented by the commencement of the eighth month.

At the full period, or nine months after conception, the ordinary size of the foetus is twenty inches in length, and its weight about seven pounds. But we must remember that these are decided deviation from this standard; some do not exceed 12 or 15 inches in length, ~~and~~, and 3 or 4 lbs. in weight; while others weigh from 14 to 20 lbs. and measure from 20 to 24 ~~to~~ inches.

This departure in size and weight

It renders it exceedingly difficult,
it may properly be said, impossible,
to ascertain in many cases, whether
the infant has attained to its ma-
turity or not.

We find that nature has made a
wise provision by which the
child is protected in utero.

Not only is it enclosed in a
sac and surrounded by a quantity
of water, but also it is nourished
by means of a substance similar to
a sponge inflexibility, by which
the blood of the mother does not run
directly into its system.

The infant lies generally with its
head downmost, that is toward the
os uteri, with its limbs bent and
folded together, as to occupy a very
small uterine space.

That the derangement of the general System during pregnancy is produced by the new actions which take place, the purpose of supplying the infant with the principles of life, is rendered probable, by the fact, that the breeding symptoms cease from the moment the infant dies, and by the additional fact, as we have observed, that they most commonly are less and less severe the more children a woman has borne.

Accordingly the ordinary complaints, during pregnancy seem to be the immediate effects either of a disturbed action of the Stomach and bowels, or of the formation of too much blood.

The most important circumstance to be attended to in the incipient months of pregnancy, is the costive habit of the bowels: Its prevention will subdue, if not wholly keep off, some of the troublesome complaints of the Stomach, and will often guard, and will most securely against some of the exciting causes of early abortion.

Bloodletting, cautiously used, either to reduce a too plethoric state of the general habit, or to alleviate some morbid affection, is a salutary agent; but it is in general more frequently had recourse to in pregnancy, than it should be, upon very erroneous principles: because a pregnant woman is a woman, though by one of the esta-

blished laws of nature, is now
obstructed, they conceive it pro-
per to draw blood, that the condi-
-tion may be freed of and
imaginary redundancy, not re-
-collecting that the process of
pregnancy is going on, to em-
-ploy the interrupted menstru-
-al fluid, to the now essential
purpose of affording growth and
support to the increasing uterus
itself as well as to its contents.
All the temporary benefits
to be derived from bloodletting,
may be most safely and
permanently secured by a
due attention to diet, and the
state of the bowels.

Nothing can be of greater impor-
-tance to a pregnant woman,

than cheerfulness.

They should not therefore be depressed by the relation of any unpleasant intelligence. We are informed that any impression made upon the mind with much force may continue for some time or throughout the entire period of pregnancy; and thus their health may be greatly impaired and thereby injure both mother and child.