

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON
Signs of Plegmaney

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in the urine. Suppression of the
Menses, - Females cease to be regular
during pregnancy. This is a law of
such general truth, that wherever it
occurs in a healthy woman, without
a known cause, and not attended with,
or followed by any morbid symptom,
it is justly regarded as a certain sign
of gestation; But as this suppression
might be produced by other causes, whenever
a physician is consulted he ought
carefully to enquire into all the circum-
stances, past or present, which might
have produced such an effect;
The menses may continue during pregnancy,
thus they frequently do appear in
the early months more rarely during
the first five or six months, and
sometimes during the whole term of pregnancy.

woman may become enceinte without ever having had their menses, and the same is true of those who have had them suppressed, and there is cases on record of woman who were only regular during gestation;

Enlargement of the Abdomen; So many different circumstances may cause an enlargement of the size of the abdomen, but little value can be attached to this sign, however there is something peculiar in its shape, and mode of development in gestation, thus the abdomen swells somewhat the first month, but this is owing to a collection of gas in the intestinal cavity, which after a few weeks, diminishes, and disappears, and the woman often seems smaller at the

end of the second month. Than during the first; But whenever this augmentation is not manifested, the abdomen is flatter the first month than before, because the uterus settles down in the excavation; At the end of the third or fourth month the hypogastric region becomes more swollen; the enlargement from that on is regular and increasing until term; consequently the tumefaction begins to show itself just above the symphysis pubis, being more considerable at first on the median line than elsewhere, while the sides become flatter; I will take up next the modifications of the urine of a pregnant woman; If the urine be received into a glass vessel, and then be allowed to settle,

The following peculiarities will exist;
When first excreted, The urine is acid,
whitish, and somewhat clouded, and of
a nauseous odor; Frequently little
white corpuscles are observed, but in a
few moments, These subside in the form
of cloudy flakes, either on the bottom
or sides of the vessel;

The urine in the meanwhile becoming
more limpid and transparent; Agreeable
to some authors this deposit does not
always occur;

The sensible signs or unequivocal signs;
The unequivocal signs of pregnancy are
all ~~derived~~ derived from auscultation or
The Touch. Hence we must study two
means of exploration carefully;

First, - The Touch in an obstetrical sense
considered is the art of ascertaining the

Condition of the various hard and soft parts, in the female, which is the great act of reproduction; And it consist in the exploration of those parts by the aid of the finger and hand applied to the vulva, and rectum, or upon the abdomen; The index finger of the right hand is generally used for this purpose; But physicians should accustom themselves to touching with both hands, for there are some diseases of woman, and some positions of the foetus, which compel the physician to use the left hand; or it may also happen that a wound upon the right, will necessarily require the left to be substituted though, for all ordinary purposes, the right is sufficient.

Abdominal palpation: - The abdominal

exploration. Contributes greatly towards
Correct diagnosis, and should always be
resorted to when it is desirable to ascertain
whether there is an existing pregnancy;
and often it is more instructive, and furnishes
more certain results, than internal examination;
Notwithstanding, some obstacles are met
with in this mode of research, for
instance, the abdominal walls may be too
thick, or there may be a great tension
of the flat muscles, or a constant
pain situated in the hypogastric region,
which prevents all pressure in that
vicinity; These obstacles are of rare
occurrence; the examination generally
being quite easy, owing to the flexibility
of the ventral parietes. In order to
practice it the female must lie down
in such a manner as to elevate her

hips, the head being flexed on the chest, and the thighs upon the abdomen; so that the abdominal muscles may be completely relaxed; The abdomen is examined in this way by both hands, with the view of ascertaining its form, size, tension, resistance, and hardness, more especially in the sub-umbilical region.

Active Movements - The foetal motions is generally perceived at about the fourth or fifth month, although the muscles of the foetus had contracted long before this unconsciously to the mother; now these movements are very feeble at first producing a kind of tickling or rather a sensation similar to that which a spider's class excite in crawling; Such movements, are so distinct

and clear to the Mother: it would seem to be an infallible sign of gestation, and yet in some cases they do not prove so, since it is not at all uncommon to find women, whose veracity is beyond doubt, asserting that they have felt them for a long time. Sometimes the husband or other persons, has perceived this motion, but still they are not pregnant. The physician should not rely in this matter upon the statement of the woman, but should perceive them for himself, before hazarding an opinion. It would seem that in some cases, the intestinal movements, the rapid passage of gas in the intestines, certain partial and irregular contractions of the abdominal muscles, and pulsations of a large artery, especially

when situated behind any tumor
which it raises at every beat, -
It has often deceived not only the
patients, but the physician in attendance,
Ballotement. To perform this, you
must direct the index finger of one
hand to be placed under the cervix
and the palm of the other hand over
the fundus uteri, then by a quick
movement of the finger in the vagina,
the uterus is to be pushed upwards,
being moveable and free, and the only
solid body in the amniotic liquor,
the foetus ascends, strikes the point
opposite, and falls back upon the
finger, which gave it the propelling
shock: It is better performed when
the woman is standing. The index finger
is entered in a vertical position

its palmar face is turned forward,
and the other three fingers are
flexed into the palm, there a quick
blow is to be given by it, and the
finger must remain immovable on
the point struck. This shock should
be made in a direction from below
upwards, and from behind forwards
by quickly flexing the first phalanx.

This last recommendation I deem
very important, for in the great
majority of cases the uterus is
inclined forwards. its long diameter,
like that of the foetus, corresponding
very nearly to the axis of the ~~strait~~
^{superior} ~~strait~~ strait;

The ballotment may be ^{also} performed
when the woman is in a recumbent
position

Sound of the Heart - The pulsations of the heart generally become perceptible in the course of the fourth or fifth month, more particularly during the latter, and often then at the most elevated part of the abdomen near the umbilical region; These pulsations are far more frequent than those of the mother's heart, ranging from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and sixty per minute; and moreover, they are very often diminished. They may be most frequently heard on the anterior inferior portion of the abdominal wall, just above the iliac fossa, or still more rarely on the median line. In some cases they may be heard over more than half of the abdomen - but it is always easy to perceive that they are stronger and clearer at one point - than elsewhere.