

**THE SIGNS, DISORDERS AND
MANAGEMENT OF PREGNANCY: THE
TREATMENT TO BE
ADOPTED DURING AND AFTER
CONFINEMENT; AND THE MANAGEMENT
AND DISORDERS OF CHILDREN**

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The Signs, Disorders and Management of Pregnancy: The Treatment to be Adopted During and After Confinement; And the Management and Disorders of Children by Douglas Fox

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DOUGLAS FOX

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TREATMENT TO BE ADOPTED DURING
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AND THE
MANAGEMENT AND DISORDERS OF CHILDREN.

WRITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR THE USE OF FEMALES.

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SURGEONS TO THE DERBYSHIRE GENERAL INFIRMARY.

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PREFACE.

It is universally admitted that a knowledge of the means best calculated to promote the welfare and comfort of women during pregnancy and confinement, is highly important ; and it is to be regretted, that in these enlightened days such knowledge is not more generally diffused amongst females ; particularly as the want of it is frequently attended with the greatest mental disquietude, and other still more serious consequences. In fact, the unnecessary suffering is incalculable, which young females frequently undergo during their first pregnancies and confinements, from ignorance of the alterations and symptoms peculiar to those states. And their extreme delicacy prevents them, in many instances, obtaining that relief which might easily be procured, if the causes of such sufferings were made known to experienced friends, or to their professional attendants.

But the mind is not unfrequently so constituted, that neither pain, anxiety, nor fear, will induce a disclosure to be made of such causes of

suffering. Under these circumstances it is essential, that females should possess a work containing the information they may require, with a view to add to their mental comfort, as well as to enable them to adopt plans suited to the exigencies of their conditions.

Unhappily, the information contained in medical works on such subjects, is usually conveyed in technical language, and interspersed with remarks intended for practitioners only, and not at all calculated to be useful to females, but rather to excite needless apprehension, and that, at a time when the feelings are highly sensitive, and when mental tranquillity is particularly desirable.

From the circumstance also, of those works being published chiefly, if not wholly, for the use of the profession; no line is drawn between the disorders which require the superintendence of the medical practitioner, and those which may be intrusted to the management of the unprofessional attendant.

With a view to obviate these objections, and to facilitate the spread of information on subjects so intimately connected with the welfare of society, this volume has been published. It contains, in a condensed form, and free from all technical expressions, a description of most of the sensations, alterations, and disorders, incident to pregnancy and confinement; and the acknowledged

plans for the prevention, removal, or mitigation of suffering.

Besides which, directions are given in cases where the accoucheur is not present, to enable the female attendant to adopt the necessary measures during and after delivery. The course to be pursued when flooding occurs, is also pointed out ; which is a subject of such vital importance, that no female should be intrusted with the care of a woman during her confinement without being perfectly acquainted with it.

Directions are also given, to enable the nurse to pursue the proper measures for the restoration of infants apparently lifeless when born.

And to render the work more generally useful, principles are laid down in simple language, for the guidance of those who have the superintendance of children during the first years of their existence, which, if acted upon in health, as well as illness, will conduce alike to their own comfort, and to the welfare of the children themselves. For if, at any time, such children should become permanently feeble, or diseased ; or should they eventually die ; a consciousness that their treatment was founded upon sound principles, will prevent the poignant regrets so often endured, when a conviction exists, that the calamities were the result of ignorance.

Throughout the work such disorders only,

have been dwelt upon, as may be attended to with safety by females themselves; and even in those cases, such a description of their appearances is given, as will enable them to decide when professional aid becomes requisite.

In every case, the treatment recommended may be regarded as neither untried, nor hazardous, but such as is practical, and generally acknowledged.

Derby, March, 1834.

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