

but a perpetual motion breeds mutation, and not man nor any thing else can continue in the same stay. *Mars* and *Venus* do here play their parts in mans production, for they are the nearest of the five Planets to the earth, but next to them is *Mercury*, of a changeable dis|position, and applieth himself to the rest of the Planets with several aspects, and he cau|seth the desire of knowledge in man; sense and reason also some maintain to be the work of *Mercury* by his influence upon the child in the womb. It is not denied but a piercing alcute humour proceeds from him, which is most likely to effect not alone the sensible but the rational part in man.

HEre Physicians are at a stand and are ne|ver like to agree about it, not two in twenty that can set their horses together; the speculation is very curious, insomuch that the Prophet *David* ascribes this knowledge as more peculiar to *God*, *Psalm 139*. *My reins are thine, thou hast covered me in my mothers womb: I will give thanks unto thee for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works, and that my soul knoweth right well; my bones are not hid from thee, though I be made secretly and fashioned beneath in the earth; thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect, and in thy Book were all my members written, which day by day were fashioned, whenas yet there was none of them.*

Yet Anatomists have narrowly enquired in|to this secret Cabinet of nature, and *Hip|pocrates* that great Physician tells us in his Book *De natura Pueri*, that the infant lieth in the womb with his head, his hands, and his knees bending downward, towards his feet: so that he is bended round together, his hands lying upon both his knees, the thumbs of his hands, & his eyes meeting each with other, & so saith *Bartholinus* the younger of the two. Likewise *Columbus*'s opinion is, that the child lieth round in the womb with the right arm bended, and the fingers of the right hand ly|ing under the ear of it, above the neck, the head bowed so low that the chin meets and toucheth the breast, and the left arm bowed lying above the breast and the face, and the right elbow bended serves to underprop the left arm lying upon it; the legs are lying up|wards, and the right leg is lifted so high that the infants thigh toucheth its belly, the knees touch the Navel, and the heel toucheth the left buttock, and the foot is turned backward and hides the privy members; as for the left thigh, that toucheth the belly, and the left leg is lifted up to the breast; the stomach lyeth

inward. But the expert *Spigelius* hath the fashion of a child near the birth, whose figure I have here laid down, and I believe it is very proper, for, as well as I am able to judge by the figure, it is the very same with that of a child that I had once the chance to see when I was performing my office of *Midwifry*.

Here insert the Figure of the Child near its Birth.

The Figure Explained:

Being a Dissection of the WOMB, with the usual manner how the CHILD lies therein near the time of its Birth.

BB. The inner parts of the *Chorion* extended and branched out.

C. The *Amnios* extended.

DD. The Membrane of the Womb extended and branched.

E. The Fleшы substance call'd the *Cake* or *Placenta*, which nourishes the Infant, it is full of Vessels.

F. The Vessels appointed for the <...

This is a general observation, that the Male Child most commonly lieth on the right side in the womb, and the Female on the left side; but *Hippocrates* layeth it down as the most universal way, to have his hands, knees, and head bending down toward the feet, his nose betwixt his knees, his hands upon both knees, and his face between them, each eye touching each thumb; but he is wrapt as he lieth in two mantles or garments, as I said,