

[Account of a Child Taken from a Woman] Handley Chipman

Date: Written in 1776 about a 1749-50 event. | 1776/01/01 to 1776/12/31

Contributors

Contributor Role

Author

Contributor Name

Handley Chipman

Publication Format

Manuscript

Type

Medicine

Symptoms

pregnancy

labour

fever

pricking upon navel

swelling and redness

enlargement around the navel

weakness

Ingredients

cooling injections

cordials

anodyne

sack with warm water

Places

Nova Scotia

Suffolk

England

Source: Handley Chipman's Notes, Vol. 2

Institution: Nova Scotia Archives | **Source Origin:** Chipman Family Papers | **Reference:** MG Vol. 218 / Microfilm Reel 10,154

Description

An account of a difficult and stalled labour resulting in the dismembering and removal of the fetus, mainly through the abdomen but also vaginally with the help of a sack and warm water injection. No. 121, p. 73.

Transcription

Account of a Child taken from a woman

I have read an Account [Allested] by two ministers namely, Tho^s: Seymour Curate of Debenham., & Sam^{el}: Ray Vicar of Kenton, also I Wareyn Clement Chavallier, with T Debenham, & Rob^t Sutton Surgeons, of some, Sarah Last, a Coopers wife, in debenham in Suffolk in old England, who in April 1749, aged about 30 years being pregnant of her Eighth child had all the Sym[^]ptoms of a woman in Labour, a midwife was sent for, concluded she would Soon be deliverd, but she was not, her pains abated a fever came on, the 26 of May one of said Doct^{er}.. Visited her. She would not be Examined, he gave her Cooling Injections, Cordials, &c She grew then better, & on the 26 of March following undertook to walk a journ[^]ey of [^]miles¹⁵ . The 27 April 1750, her Labour pains return'd as it Seem'd, one of said Doct^f. was call'd, he gave her an Anodyne which composed her to rest, On the 14th of May She felt a pricking pain upon her navel, with a Swelling & redness, in a Few days appear'd like a Boyl, the Doct^f. applied

of July the Doct^{er}. by advice of others Doct^{er}, Enlarg'd the Orifice round the Navel, into the Cavity of the abdomen, but the woman being very weak &c the Doct^f: could only take off the Scapula, the Next day[^]he Extracted one whole Arm, some ribs, part of the Vertebrae the next day the greatest part of the remainder &c, Except the cranium, which seem'd to adhere to the intestines, the Doct^f: then acted with great caution, Injections was made with sack and warm water & found of service, being thrown in in Larg Quantities several parts of the bones, as the tibia fibula &c where discharged by the vagi[^]na, the wound finally was cured, the woman perfectly reco: ;vered and is grown fat, saith the above relators N:B after all was discharged the woman had Milk ~~in her~~ in her breasts as upon a regular Delivery &c. (A wonder of wonders.)