

*An Extract of a Letter of M. de S. Maurice M.D. to M. de la Closure, a Physician of Aubeterre. of the Twenty Sixth of April 1682: Concerning the formation of a Fœtus in the Testicle. Taken out of the Journal de Medicine Publisht Jan. 1683. by M. l' Abbe dela Roque at Paris.*

**I** think Sr. that after what lately happened to Madam *de Saint Mere*, we ought no longer to doubt of the Formation of the *Fœtus* in the *Testicles* of Women, and consequently of the Existence of *Egrs.* This Lady whose Merit is known to you, had been brought to bed Eight times as prosperously as might be, and after having continued Five years without being with Child, in so much that she thought her self freed from those sorts of Labours, about Three months since she suspected herself to be fallen into that condition again; because having never failed of being very regular, and not finding her self ill, she was more than a Month without her ordinary relief. But whilst in this state she had a little show, which scarce left her wholly during the two last Months of her Life, and which she past nevertheless without much trouble, so that she thought her self to be secure, as to the point of her being with Child, but that the 22<sup>d</sup> Instant, after she was up in the Morning in very good health and had been writing about an hour, she fell into Faintings, which made her lose

P p 2

ab-

absolutely her *Pulse* from that Moment without depriving her of her Understanding or Speech.

*M. de Saint Mere* who took this faintness at first for an effect of *Vapours*, was not Allarmed at it, till feeling her Arme, he found her without any *Pulse*. This privation joynd with a mortal Paleness amusing him, he sent a man to intreat me to go and see her.

I came to her about Eight of the Clock in the Evening, I found her cold and wholly without any *Pulse*; her Countenance deadish and covered with a clammy and cold sweat, haveing still an entire Understanding and her Speech strong.

She complained of a great *Colick* in the Region of the right groine, which terminated at the Reines: This *Colick* was so violent, that as I was going to touch the place, she prayed me not to press it, and told me I should make her fall into a Swoon.

In a moment after, she felt all the *Preludium's* of an imminent Travel; she called her Chirurgeon and dyed in his Arms saying, *I am Delivering, I am Delivering*; there appearing outwardly neither distillation, nor flooding, nor any mark of this disorder.

A Death so little expected amazed every body, and surprized so much *M. de St. Mere*, that he was desirous to know, whether the opening the body would not discover the Cause: *M. de la Chese* a Chirurgeon was made Choise of to do it, and I was prayed to assist *Messieurs de Montauzon* Advocate of *Perigueux*, *de la Porte* Gentleman of *M. le Comte de Taleran*, *du Vair* Apothecary to *St. Meres* and two *Valets de Chambre* of the house, desired to be present at the opening, and this is what we found.

As soon as the Chirurgeon had opened the Integuments of the belly we saw in the *Epigastrick* Region all the Entrals floating in Blood: I caused Two Pound to be taken forth with a spoon; to avoid changing the situation of the parts, after which seeing that there remained in the right Flank

a prodigious quantity which was coagulated, I tryed myself to take it out with my hand, but Judge Sr. how I was Surprized, when among the first Clots which I drew forth, I found a little *Fætus* about the bigness of a Thumb, and a Third less in length, all very distinctly formed, and in which was manifestly discovered the Sex of a Boy but naked and without covering. I put this *Fætus* on a Plate and shewed it to all that were present, and being impatient to know from whence it came, I applyed myself with all exactness to examin all the neighbouring parts of the place whence I took it. Two fingers from this place I found the right *Cornu* of the *Womb*; but my amazment was doubled, when I found the *Testicle* torn longwaies and thro the middle on the side, that it did not touch the *Tuba*, and all its cavity full of clotted blood. I no longer doubted, but this was the place where this Infant was formed, and I conceived that having acquired in this place a growth too great to be able to fall in time; and having continued to grow there, without being able to come forth, it had at length broken its Prison by stretching it.

I was confirmed in my opinion when comparing this *Testicle* with the left, I found it at least four times bigger its greatness approaching that of an Hens Egg; and the left being not greater, than a little Chesnut; it was all red without and within, besides the clotted blood that it contained; whereas the left was pale and full of little grains of the colour and consistency of yellow Tallow.

I examined the *Tube* on the right side; and I could not find that this Infant had ever entred there; it was in all things like the left *Tube*.

Lastly I examined the Body of the *Womb* with all the Care and Exactness that might be, it appeared to me every where without any rent, and in a state purely natural: I only observed, that it was a little bigger and softer than it is found in Women who dye without being with Child: it was all as Dr. *Harvy* has described it, in the first month

month of *Pregnancy*. I caused a probe to be put into its *Cavity* by the *Vagina*, and then to be cut open, and I found not the least sign of *Conception*. Indeed the *Vessels* of the interior membrane appeared to me full of *Blood*, and *varicous* as it were, which doubtless was the cause of that little show of *Blood*, as before mentioned.

Tho it were needless to search elsewhere for the *Death* of this *Lady*; we nevertheless examined all the other parts both of the *Belly*, and of the *Breast*, and found them all well in order, and in a state purely natural.

I leave you now to judge *Sr.* what may be concluded from all this; since no person can draw better than your self the consequences, which necessarily follow from this *Phenomenon*.

*Authors* speak of certain *Fetus's* found in the *Tubes*; and of others that have been found in the *Cavity* of the belly, the *Womb*, nor the *Tubes* being any way torn: but I do not think that any person hitherto has been able to shew, that the conception is made in the *Testicle* or *Ovarium*, as it seems to me that the fact, which I have now related to you manifestly demonstrates, and tis this which has made us think hitherto that the *Opinion* of *Egs* had hitherto need of *Proofs* to support it.

---