

## CHAP. XIII.

*With what travail the Childe is brought into the world, and of the caus of this labor and travail.*



When the natural prefixed and prescribed time of childe-birth is com, the childe beeing then grown greater, require's a greater quantitie of food: which when hee cannot receiv in sufficient measure by his navel, with great labor and striving hee endeavoreth to get forth: therefore then hee is mooved with a stronger violence, and doth break the membranes wherein hee is contained. Then the womb, becauf it is not able to endure such violent motions, nor sustain or hold up the childe anie longer, by reason that the conceptacles of the membranes are broken asunder, is relaxed. and then the childe pursuing the air which hee feeleth to enter in at the mouth of the womb, which then is verie wide and gaping, is carried with his head downwards, and so commeth into the world with great pain both unto it self, and also unto his mother, by reason of the tenderness of his bodie, and also by reason of the nervous neck of his mother's womb, and separation of the bone called *Os Ilium* from the bone called *Os sacrum*. For unless those bones were drawn in sunder, how could not onely twins that cleav fast together, but also one childe alone, com forth at so narrow a passage as the neck of the womb is? Not onely reason, but also experience confirmeth it; for I opened the bodies of women presently after they have died of travail in childe-birth, in whom I have found the bones of *Ilium* to bee drawn the bredth of ones finger from *Os sacrum*: and moreover, in manie unto whom I have been called, beeing in great extremitie of difficult and hard travail, I have not onely heard, but also felt the bones to cracle and make a noif, when I laid my hand upon the coccyx or rump, by the violence of the distention. Also honest matrons have declared unto mee that they themselves, a few daies before the birth, have felt and heard the noif of those bones separateing themselves one from another with great pain. Also a long time after the birth manie do feel great pain and ach about the region of the coccyx and *Os sacrum*, so that when nature is not able to repair the dissolved continuitie of the bones of *Ilium*, they are constrained to halt all the daies of their life after. But the bones of the share called *Ossa pubis*, I have never seen to bee separated, as manie do also affirm. It is reported that in *Italie* the coccyx or rump in all maidens, that when they com to bee married thee may bear children with the lesser travail in childe-birth; but this is a forged tale, for that bone beeing broken, is naturally and of its own accord repaired, and ioined together again with a *Callus*, whereby the birth of the childe will bee more difficult and hard.

Why the infant is born somtimes with his head forwards.

In the time of childe-birth the bones of *Ilium* and *Os sacrum* are drawn and extended one from another.

An Italian fable.

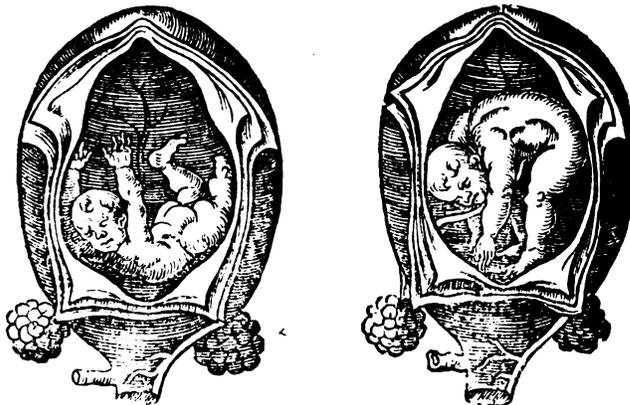
## CHAP. XIV.

*Of the situation of the infant in the womb.*



Reason cannot shew the certain situation of the infant in the womb, for I have found it altogether uncertain, variable and divers both in liveing and dead women: in the dead by opening their bodies presently after they were dead; and in the liveing by helping them by the industrie of my hand, when they have been in danger of perishing by travail of childe-birth: for by putting my hand into the womb, I have felt the infant coming forth, somtimes with his feet forwards, someimes with his hands, and somtimes with his hands and feet turned backwards, and somtimes forwards as the figure following plainly describeth.

The situation of the infant in the womb is divers.



I have often found them coming forth with their knees forwards, and somtimes with one of the feet, and somtimes with their bellie forwards, their hands and feet beeing lifted upwards, as the former figure sheweth at large.

Som-