

This opinion, that it is the menstrua which is the occasional cause of delivery at different times, may be confirmed by many other reasons. The females of every animal which have no menses, bring forth at nearly the same terms, and there is but a very slight variation in the duration of their gestation. We may, therefore, suppose that this variation, which is so great in women, comes from the action of the menstrual blood, which is constantly exerted at every periodic return.

We have observed, that the placenta adheres to the papillæ, or the matrix, only by nipples; that there is no blood either in these nipples or in the vacuities they are niched into, and that when they are separated (which is easily done) a milky liquor only issues from them. Now, how happens it that delivery is always accompanied with a considerable hæmorrhage, at first of pure blood, and afterwards mixed with a watery liquor? This blood does not proceed from the separation of the placenta, as the nipples are drawn out without any effusion of blood. Delivery, which entirely consists of this separation, should not, therefore, produce any blood. Is it not then more accordant with reason to suppose, that it is the action of  
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