

These coverings grow at first more than the foetus; but after a certain time it is quite the contrary. Before the end of the third month the head is bent forward, the chin rests on the breast, the knees are lifted up, the legs bent backwards upon the thighs (sometimes the knees are so high as almost to touch the jaws), the arms are generally folded across the breast, and one of the hands, and often both touch the face. The foetus afterwards takes different situations, as it acquires strength. Experienced midwives have pretended to be certain that it changes much oftener than is commonly thought, and which they prove by several observations; first, the umbilical cord is often found twisted round the body and limbs of the child, in a manner which necessarily supposes, that the foetus has moved in many directions, and taken different positions; secondly, a mother feels the motions of the foetus sometimes on one side of the womb and sometimes on another; and it often strikes against many different places, which must be occasioned by different positions, and supposes that it takes different situations; thirdly, as it floats in a liquid which surrounds it on all sides, it can very easily turn and extend itself by its own strength; and it must also take different

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