

ferent situations according to the various attitudes of the mother ; for example, when she lies down, the foetus must be in another situation to what it was when she stood upright.

Most anatomists have said, that the foetus is constrained to bend its body, because it is too confined in its covering ; but this opinion does not appear well founded, for in the first five or six months there is more space than is required for the foetus to extend, and yet during that time it is bent and folded. We also see the chicken is in a curved posture in the liquor of the amnios, although this membrane and its liquor are sufficient to contain a body five or six times as large as the foetus. Thus we may conclude that this curved form of the foetus is natural, and not the effect of force. I am somewhat of Harvey's opinion, who says, it takes this attitude because it is the most favourable to rest and sleep ; and as the foetus sleeps almost continually, it naturally takes the most advantageous situation. " Certe (says this famous anatomist) animalia omnia, dum quiescunt & dormiunt, membra sua ut plurimum adducunt & complicant, figuramque ovalem ac conglobatam quærunt : ita pariter embryones qui ætatem suam maxime somno

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transigunt,