

and felt by the same pains and symptoms. From the first suppression of the menses, therefore, a violent action on the matrix is made, and provided the action is augmented, it destroys the product of generation. It may from thence be concluded, that every conception which is made just before the useful return of the menses seldom succeeds, and that the action of that blood easily destroys the weak roots of a germ so tender and so delicate. The conceptions, on the contrary, which are made just after the periodical evacuations succeed the best, because the produce of the conception has more time to grow, strengthen, and resist the action of the blood, by the time the next revolution happens.

The foetus having undergone this first trial, and having resisted it, receives more strength and growth, and is more in a condition to contend against the succeeding revolutions. Miscarriages may and do happen in all the periodical revolutions; but they are less frequent in the fourth and fifth months, than either at the beginning or near the end. We have assigned the reasons why they are more frequent at the beginning; it therefore only remains to explain why they are also more frequent towards the end.

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