

meconium ; a proof that the bile and other bitter humours of the body begin to intermix with it. This fact tends to support our former remark, that the foetus did not receive any food by its mouth, but received all its nourishment by absorption.

The infant is allowed time to throw off the slime and meconium, which are in its bowels and intestine, before it is allowed to suck. As these substances might sour the milk, and produce bad effects, it is first made to swallow a little wine and sugar, in order to fortify the stomach, and to procure such evacuations as may be necessary to prepare it for receiving and digesting its food ; nor ought it to receive the breast till 10 or 12 hours after the birth.

Hardly has the infant left the womb of its mother, and enjoyed the liberty of extending its limbs, when it is again put into a more cruel confinement. The head of the helpless infant is fixed to one position ; its arms and legs put in strict bondage, and it is laced with bandages so strait as not to be able to move a single joint. Well is it when the compression is not so great as to obstruct the respiration, or that the midwife has taken the precaution to lay it upon its side, that the natural moisture may emit of itself from the mouth, since it is denied