

The Stool to
be furnished
with clothes.

labouring woman may be covered, and other women sometimes apply their hands in any place if necessity require. Let the Stool be furnished and covered with many cloths & clouts at the back & other parts, that the laboring woman receive no hurt, or the Infant any where, strongly kicking and striving because of the paines, stirrings, and motions of the mother. And after the labouring woman shall be set in her Chaire about to be delivered, the Midwife shall place one woman behind her back which may gently hold the labouring woman, taking her by both the armes, and if need be, the paines waxing grievous, and the woman labouring, may stroke and presse downe the wombe, and may somewhat drive and deresse the Infant downward. But let her place other two by her sides, which may both with good words encourage and comfort the labouring woman, and also may be ready to helpe and put to their hand at any time. This being done, let the Midwife her selfe sit stooping forward before the labouring woman, and let her annoint her owne hands, and the womb of the labouring woman, with oile of Lillies, of sweet Almonds, and

and the grease of an Hen, mingled and tempered together. For to doe this, doth profit and helpe them very much which are grosse and fat, and them, whose secret parts are strickt and narrow, and likewise them which have the mouth of the Matrix dry, and such women as are in labor of their first child. It will also be profitable to commixe and temper with those things the white of an Egge. Lastly, all these things thus prepared, let the Midwife instruct and encourage the party to her labour, to abide her paines with patience, and then gently apply her hands to the worke as she ought, by feeling and searching with her fingers how the child lieth, and by relaxing and opening the way and passage conveniently for him, while the mother is in paine, and also where there is need by enlarging and stretching out the neck of the Matrix warily, and if the Infant stay from proceeding forth, and be stopped any where, with her fingers tenderly to direct the Infant to lie & proceed forth directly and naturally, when hee lieth crooked and overthwart, and to further him to an easie birth. Let her conveniently receive the Infant proceeding forth to birth, and let her presently

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