

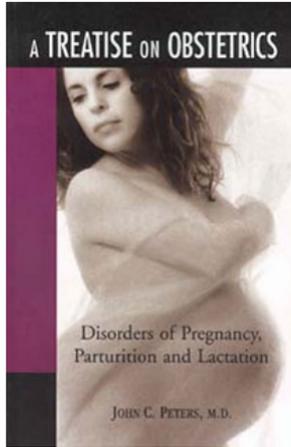
# John C. Peters A treatise on Obstetrics

## Leseprobe

[A treatise on Obstetrics](#)

von [John C. Peters](#)

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# ON THE DISEASES

OF

## PREGNANCY, PARTURITION, AND LACTATION,

### ON MARRIAGE.

WE take it for granted that, in civilized countries, marriage only takes place between persons of proper age, and from the dictates of reason and personal affection. From 18 to 25 years of age may be considered the most proper period for females to contract marriage; from 25 to 30 years for males.

Interest, superstition, and still more unworthy motives, have, however, in all ages, led to earlier marriages. According to ROBERTON, marriages of interest were, perhaps, more abused in England, up to the year 1660, than in any other country; and that not always for the interest of the contracting female; but, on the contrary, frequently to her great detriment in person and estate. Then, almost all the property of the English realm was, by the policy of the laws, supposed to be granted by, dependent upon, or holden of some superior chief or lord; even wardship and marriage were under the control of these grasping freebooters. The right of wardship meant, that the lord had the guardianship of his tenant during his minority, by virtue of which right he had both the care of his person, and reserved to his own use the profit of the estate, except the word's sustenance and clothing, the amount of which lay much at the mercy

of his lord. Further, by a gross abuse of this custom in England, this right of wardship was often, by the lord, assigned over to strangers ; or it was put up to sale, or bequeathed by will, like any other kind of disposable property. But, besides the profit of the estate during the minority, the lord had another perquisite connected with his guardianship, viz., the right of disposing of his ward, whether, male or female, in matrimony. If the lord did not make over or sell his right, he soon set about finding matches for his wards, either by uniting them, if that were thought advantageous, with members of his own family, or of the families of relatives, or by selling the marriage, *i.e.*, if the ward, for example, were a female, disposing of her hand to the best bidder, provided he was of suitable rank; for the law forbade disparagement. The marriage, in most of these cases, instead of being delayed to the period of legal consent for the female, which was 12 years, were often contracted at an age considerably earlier with a view to its being consummated when the parties should arrive at puberty, or before that period. But it often happened that the lord, instead of exercising the right of guardian, sold it to a stranger, one prompted by every pecuniary, or baser motive, to abuse the delicate and important trust of education; without any ties of blood or regard, to counteract the temptations of interest ; or any sufficient authority to restrain him from yielding to their influence. Thus, William Bishop of Ely, gave 220 marks for the custody of Stephen de Beanchamp, and the right to marry him to whom he pleased: John, Earl of Lincoln, gave 3000 marks to have the marriage of Richard de Clare for the benefit of his eldest daughter, Mitilda, &C, &c. But the most curious thing, says ROBERTON, connected with the treatment of this species of property, is the extremely cool manner in which wards were bequeathed, along with ordinary goods and chattels; thus, Sir John Cornwallis, in his will (1554), after a very

or boiled, in preference to broiled or baked; and all salted, spiced, or smoked aliment ought to be taken sparingly, or not at all, if the stomach is delicate, as they generally derange it. The flesh of young animals, as veal, lamb, chicken, and certain kinds of fish, are less nutritious than the other articles mentioned, and are therefore considered lighter. Fatty food, as pork, duck, eel, butter, oil, &c, generally disagree with nervous, bilious, or dyspeptic persons, and those who suffer from indigestion, flatulency, and lowness of spirits, and especially during Pregnancy, when there already is more or less tendency to nausea and vomiting. Farinaceous food, such as bread, rice, potato, beans, peas, sago, arrow-root, tapioca, and salep, are highly nutritious, though they may in some cases induce heartburn, flatulency, and indigestion. Mucilaginous aliments, as carrots, turnips, parsnips, cabbages, and asparagus, ought to be taken but sparingly by pregnant women, and those who suckle their infants, and then a little pepper should be used with them. Sweet foods, as sugar, dates, fruits, &c, should be used in moderation. Finally, as the stomach is irritable and delicate in most pregnant women during the first months, it is highly necessary, both that their food should be cut small, and then well masticated, to render it more fitted, and more easily acted upon by the stomach; and drink, too, should be used sparingly while eating, for if the gastric juice be too much diluted, it cannot act upon the food in an efficient manner.—RYAN. Most writers, and among them BUEE, are very decided about the propriety of moderation in eating; they assume that most persons habitually take more food than is strictly required for the demands of the body, in fact use a superfluity amply sufficient for the wants of the child, for which only a very small quantity is necessary. Nature corroborates this opinion, for almost the first evidence of Pregnancy is the morning sickness, which would seem to declare that only a small quantity of very choice food should be taken. If the appetite in the earlier months is variable and capricious, the woman should not be too readily persuaded to humor and feed its waywardness, for

	STRONG CONSTITUTION.	EDUCATE CONSTITUTION.	MEDIUM NORMAL STATE.
Density. . . . .	1032.97	1031.90	1032.67
Water. . . . .	911.19	887.59	889.08
Solids. . . . .	88.81	112.41	110.92
Sugar. . . . .	32.55	42.88	43.64
Casein, &c.. . . . .	28.98	39.21	39.24
Butter. . . . .	25.96	28.78	26.66
Salts. . . . .	1.32	1.54	1.38

## INFLUENCE OF PREGNANCY.

	PREGNANCY FOR 3 MONTHS.	MEDIUM NORMAL STATE.
Density. . . . .	1030.67	1032.67
Water. . . . .	860.97	889.08
Solids. . . . .	139.01	110.92
Sugar. . . . .	46.47	43.64
Casein, &c.. . . . .	34.52	39.24
Butter. . . . .	55.97	26.66
Salts. . . . .	2.05	1.88

The principal influence of pregnancy on milk is to produce a great increase in the quantity of butter; and it is remarkable that the same effect is produced in the cow, the proportion of butter increasing from 36.12 to 47.52.

## THE INFLUENCE OF MENSTRUATION,

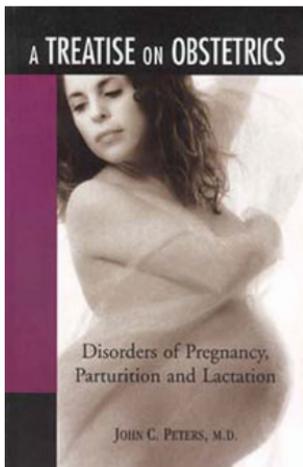
is variable; as a rule the density, quantity of water, and sugar are somewhat diminished; and that of the solids and casein decidedly increased, the butter and salt decidedly or slightly augmented. Still in two instances the solids increased from 111 and 113 to 142 and 144, and in another case, fell from 113 to 96

The quantity of Sugar in one case fell from 54 to 35; increased in another from 39 to 47; and remained stationary at 44 in a third.

The quantity of Casein increased in one case from 35 to 40 in another from 41 to 42; and fell in a third from 41 to 39.

The quantity of Butter increased in one case from 21 to 67 in a second, from 29 to 52; and fell in a fourth, from 24 to 10.

Hence it is to be supposed that equally great changes will take place in the state of the stomach and bowels of the infant.



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