

### *Illustrated obstetrics manuscript*

**Winter, Franz Adam von**, Bavarian physician (fl. 1740s). *Opusculum, de Examine Obstetricum, Easque informandi Methodo, Quomodo nimirum, tam in naturali, quam non naturali partu, ac Foetu mortuo existentese gerere debeant: Una cum Exigua Sectionis Caesareae Explanatione: Item de Gravidarum, & Pueperarum nec non Infantum Recens Natorum Regimine, & Affectibus [...]*.

Landsberg am Lech, 1744. 8vo. Latin manuscript (brown ink) on paper. Title-page, (3), (1 blank), 115 (not 111), (1 blank) pp., (4 blank leaves), (6) pp. of index. With 8 hand-drawn pen-and-ink, grey wash plates (some folding). Contemporary full calf chipped at extremities with remains of a giltstamped spine label "...me Pueper". All edges red.



Unpublished obstetrics manual, handwritten and fully illustrated by a German physician of the 1740s. The meticulous calligraphy of the headlines, the justified margins and precise paragraph indentations imitate a book printed in a classical Roman typeface, while the text is written in an easily legible, educated and appealingly regular round Latin hand.

The book is arranged in two separate sections, or “treatises”: the first, longer one includes all of the illustrations and is more overtly didactic, following a question-answer pattern, while the second one (entitled “De regimine gravidarum, puerperarum, nec non infantum, recens natorum; item, de morbis et affectibus illorum”), provides a more scholarly discussion of specific ailments and treatments of the mother and baby, including medical prescriptions. The various chapters are concerned with signs of pregnancy, how to turn breech babies, caesarean sections, stillbirth, teratology, but also morning sickness, piles, sciatica, and lactation; the fine illustrations include cross-sections of the womb showing the fetus in various positions, the placenta, and the female genital organs as well as a grown-up hermaphrodite displaying ambiguous genitalia, conjoined twins and other freaks of nature.

Franz Adam Wolfgang von Winter was born in Dingolfing, Southern Bavaria, likely some time before 1720. Already equipped with a degree in philosophy, he apparently practised as a physician at Landsberg, some 20 miles distant, before deciding to take the degree of Medical Doctor at the University of Altdorf near Nuremberg. Without previously having studied there, he matriculated on 10 December 1744 as a doctoral candidate and passed his viva five days later (cf. *Die Matrikel der Universität Altdorf [Würzburg 1912]*, p. 582, no. 17465). His inaugural dissertation “*De Cautione in Observationibus Physico-Medicis Adhibenda*”, an investigation of the caution that must apply in medical observations, was printed that same year by J. G. Meyer in Altdorf, with a congratulatory poem by professor Johann Jacob Kirsten. The examination would appear to have been little more than a formality; at least it does not seem to have overly preoccupied the medical student who almost simultaneously found the time to prepare the present manuscript: a long, lovingly illustrated manual abounding with a sort of practical detail quite absent from the same author’s very generally worded 17-page dissertation. In the manuscript, Winter calls himself “Phil. & Med. Doct. Phys. t. t. & Practic. in Landsperg, Anno MDCCXLIV”, which would date at least the completion of this text within the last two weeks of 1744 following his graduation from Altdorf. Winter’s further career must remain the subject of further research: he is not recorded in the biographical dictionaries of noteworthy physicians such as Hirsch & Hübotter and may have died before the middle of the century.

Spine-ends chipped; corners bumped; hinges weak. First gathering loosened; insignificant brownstains to a few leaves, but very well preserved. A charming survival.

# OPUSCULUM,

de  
**Examine Obstetricum** Easq;  
 informandi Methodo. Quomodo nimi-  
 rum, tam in naturali, quam non natu-  
 rali partu, ac Foetu mortuo existente se-  
 gerere debeant:

Una cum

Exigua Sectionis Cæsareæ Expla-  
 natione:

Item  
 de

Gravidarum, & Pueperarum

nec non

Infantium Recens Natorum

Regimine, & Affectibus,  
 conscriptum.

a me

Franc. Adam. de Winter. Phil. & Med. Doct. Phys. t. t.  
 & Practic. in L. audspurg. Anno MDCC. XLIV.

Figura Ima.



54. **Re.** Positum esse sub vagina uteri, dorsum, seu funiculum  
 verus, Cui uterus cum suis partibus proprie suspendatur, in  
 fine etiam aliqualem cum vagina Connectionem habenti; ut  
 signellum habetur in fig. Vita. No. 1.

**Q. 5.** Vbi vesica situm suum obtinet?

**Re.** Vesicam supra uterum eiusq; vaginam positam in-  
 cere, atq; ex una parte firmiter ossi pubis, posteriori autem  
 uteri vaginae pariter annexam adhærere. vide fig. VI. No. 2.

**Q. 6.** An Crura in gravidis nimia uteri distensio à labio  
 augmento, pariter aucta, naturalem etiam urine, aut aliter  
 excrementi exitum, et excretionem impediatur?

**Re.** Contingere quandoquidem! in ultimis præsertim  
 mensibus, ubi non raro vel urine incontinentia, vel suppu-  
 ratio illius, maxime tamen tenesmus accedere solent; vel  
 adhuc ipsi diutiori affectus quidam præternaturalis simile  
 malum miratur. Illudimum vero incontinentiæ ab excre-  
 mento utero præsertim gravidæ, dum per nimiam, ac subleptam  
 foetus augmentationem, ac ventris distensionem vasa illa  
 ita comprimuntur, ut sanguis ad femora per arteri-  
 as delatus, naturali quo fas est circulo, per venas in  
 Aterum motum suum regressum sub aliis solent; redire  
 nequeat. Quare venæ non solum vitium esse, sed quibus  
 quidem etiam rumpi, hinc ob vehementem distensionem,  
 et sanguinis influxum, Complicatas quasi novis in venis  
 Varices dictis, efformare videntur;

Figura Vita.





71.

**.S. II.**

**De Doloꝛe Colico, & Flatulen-  
tiis.**

Ingestare etiam gravidas solent dolores Colici, et fla-  
tulentia intestinum; Quia si a Chateria Cruda, fla-  
tuosa, Coniuncta intestina offeudente proveniunt, Lenia  
dispensio taxantia adhibita conducunt, v.g. ol. amygd.  
dulc. Mann. Alac. Diaparrum. Chystris etc.

Si a Succesiva fetus augmentatione atq; uteri  
Expansione, intestina vespis Superiora premuntur, flatu-  
um autem successus per inferiora tali modo impediatur,  
palesq; durior, ac raris reddatur, hinc alvi apertio erit  
per Lenia Carminativa, ut sunt pulvires friccentes, et  
Salino-Diseculientes v.g.

O. alfynt.  
tamaryc. aa ʒi

ʒv. Plat.  
arcan. Duplic.

Q. ʒss.

Crissal. mol. ʒi. aa ʒss. Apis q ʒss

Ex quibus formet ʒ. Ox V. ʒi. Sambuc. vel Chamomil. ʒ.  
ʒi. pimentis. prodest enim proficui sunt subjectis Ca-  
lido-tribus.

Jeli:



22.

in his casu parturientis parato se se accomodet lecto, aut si  
 perforata fuerit, ita tamen, ut ubiq; manibus se  
 necesse ac firmare valeat; sedes aptato, ac transverse  
 pto ligno, flexis genibus comode imponat; Eleuetur  
 flexor Caponis vel dorsi pars, vel iunctis duarum partem  
 tum manibus, vel pulcrum, aut alio quocumq; habet  
 phamento subleuanda, ac suffulcenda. Liberior autem  
 Refpirationis et generationis actio procedere queat.

**Caput. IV.**

**Docet, Quomodo Mater & Infans  
 in naturali partu constituta tractan-  
 da foret:**

Expositus iam modo iis, quae ante partum seculi necessarii  
 occurrunt, ad ea quae sequentia reor, de quibus  
 norantes erudire fas est; Quomodo nimirum chuliet  
 actus partus, praesertim vero difficilis Constituta tractan-  
 da observetur. *gghet*

**Q. 1.** Quod agendum, si formina ad partum prope-  
 vendum necessaria remittant, aut omnino cessantes emi-  
 neant?

**R.** in principio aliquid omnia medicamenta fortiter  
 pellentis etc. ne natura Robur, ac virium vigor occumbat  
 Copiosius sed Consultius opti videtur, hausto parum vino  
 natop; parte vires remouillare, ac Reliquum deniq; quicquid

23.

Deo, et natura relinquere: Formina vero si tota exama-  
 scant, Carninaturis primo et Cordialibus succurrendum,  
 quibus non iurantibus una tum chulicamenta magis signi-  
 cura propinanda veniunt.

**Q. 2.** Quod agendum dum felice partu formina vehemen-  
 ter affligant?

**R.** in his Circumstantibus Regio pubis, et genitalia medi-  
 cina Emollientibus Cata plasmatis, aut inunctionibus  
 oleosis erunt praeparanda; Cum tamen oleo pro lubricati-  
 na genitalium non semper conuenire videntur, praesertim si for-  
 mina non bene succedant, melius esse Consultum habetur, si ta-  
 genitalia, quam Manus obstetricis, chueclag. sem. lin:  
 Malu: vel alth: extract: tepide utinantur, et inungantur.

**Q. 3.** Quomodo Formina realia a fœnis seu Colicis  
 cognoscuntur?

**R.** Differentiam in hoc esse, quod nempe stantibus for-  
 minibus fœnis nulla se monstrat intentio, ubi trahit apertio  
 sed magis Contractio, quae tamen superuenit in realibus, effi-  
 nonnunquam si seu per tempus tantum; in primariis utero  
 nonnihil Clausus post formina reuocatur.

**Q. 4.** An etiam obstetric Contrarium fœnis ingressu  
 auertere possit?

**R.** sine dubio, modo in tempore praesens, fœnij ante  
 iam factum ingressum subuenire, eundemq; facilitare stue-  
 at; Quare Chata, etiam feminas monitis habere vellem  
 ne ad ultimum usq; hora momentum totum partus negotium  
 differant, ac illi, quod comode instat tempori negligenter