

Lucina, O,
 Divinest patroness, and midwife gentle,
 To those that cry by night, convey thy deity
 Aboard our dancing boat; make swift the pangs
 Of my queen's travails!

Pericles, iii, 1.

* In the majority of cases labour terminates during the night (1.19 labours take place between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. to every one occurring during the other half of the day), the maximum frequency occurring in the morning hours from 12 to 3 a.m. (Otto Spiegleberg. "A Text Book of Midwifery". London: The New Sydenham Society, 1887, vol. i, p. 187).

Strangulation by the umbilical cord is suggested in the line—
 Finger of birth-strangled babe.

Macbeth, iv, 1.

Gloster, according to his own account, came into the world with as "untimely ripped" suggests, before term.

Indeed, 'tis true, that Henry told me of;
 For I have often heard my mother say
 I came into the world with my legs forward.

Henry VI, Part III, v, 6.

Macbeth. I bear a charmed life, which must not yield
 To one of woman born.

Macduff. Despair thy charm,
 And let the angel whom thou still hast serv'd
 Tell thee, Macduff was from his mother's womb
 Untimely ripp'd.

Macbeth, v, 7.

while in *Cymbeline*, the name given to the infant, Posthumus, indicates that a abdominal section was carried out after the mother's death—

Sicilius. I died, while in the womb he stay'd
 Attending nature's law.

Mother. Lucina lent not me her aid,
 But took me in her throes;
 That from me was Posthumus ripp'd,
 Came crying 'mongst his foes,
 Athing of pity!

Cymbeline, v, 4.

The merciful view of English law that the unborn child should be exempt from the punishment of a condemned mother is referred to in *Winter's Tale* (ii, 2), and in the following speech were Joan of Arc, on being condemned to the stake as a sorceress, claims the privileges of a reprieve on this ground—

Pucelle. Will nothing turn your unrelenting hearts?
 Then, Joan, discover thine infirmity,
 That warranteth by law to be thy privilege:
 I am with child, ye bloody homicides:
 Murder not then the fruit within the womb,
 Although ye hale me to a violent death.

Henry VI, Part I, v, 4.

Juliet, according to her old Nurse, was weaned when she was nearly three years of age. This, in our present-day custom, seems passing strange, and I must leave a full consideration of it to students of Shakespeare and of the history of the period. The method of giving the child a distaste for the breast, viz., putting wormwood on the nipple, is also referred to—