

and the legs strongly flexed and drawn up against the abdomen. On following the line of the vertebral column, a slight scoliosis is observed in the thoracic region convex to the right.

The whole body is covered with a well developed lanugo moderately dark in color, and on the head is abundant fine black hair about 2 cm. in length. Nails are present on all the digits of both upper and lower limbs, but are yet some distance from the extreme ends.

The weight of the child is 1280 grams, and the length from the vertex of the skull to the ischial tuberosity, measured over the back, is 325 mm. These measurements correspond fairly well with figures given by Keibel and Mall ('10) and by McMurrich ('15) for the seventh month.

The deformed upper extremities show an upper arm segment with the forearm flexed upon it and united to it by a web of skin, a narrow carpal region and a single digit. On the right arm there is also a single digit located at the inner side of the elbow. The general resemblance to the wing of a chicken plucked for cooking is strong, and led to the assertion that the mother's fondness for visiting the zoological gardens and watching the birds was responsible for this deformity, because she had spent much time in this way during the spring and summer months of her pregnancy. Maternal impressions have been credited with many strange and miraculous powers without any rational basis, and this is surely an example where a credulous imagination has been led far astray. A mere coincidence has been used to work out a sequence of cause and effect, and, like much circumstantial evidence, there is here no basis for the assumption that the two facts have in truth any association whatever. Only a very slight knowledge of human embryology is necessary to shatter the theory in this case. The bird impression, if it may be so called, seized the mother during the spring and summer when she had a strong desire to be out of doors. It may be assumed that the deformity in the limbs was an accomplished fact when the limb skeleton was laid down and so was present at the time of the appearance of ossification in the limbs in the seventh week of development. Indeed it may even be