

In fact it is an excellent procedure to overcome the extreme bashfulness of some patients. In these cases you can start with your hands under a thin sheet, or even an undercover, because you are intending to gradually work it off anyway.

4. It makes a good beginning for a complete physical diagnosis for the purpose of detecting heart murmurs, diseased breasts, etc.

5. Some men say that this is not practical, because, even if you do diagnose the position of the child during the last month of pregnancy, the position may be different at labor. In answer to this argument I say that it is practical because, in the first place, if you go at some convenient time and make sure that you have a normal position, you can rest assured that everything will come along in a natural way at the confinement. To be sure of this is worth something to a man if he happens to be engaged so that he cannot leave at once when he is called for the confinement. Secondly, although I do not dispute the argument that the child often changes its position during the last month of pregnancy, still on inquiry I have found out from men of large experience that although they have often noted that an abnormal may change to a normal, they have never seen a normal case change to an abnormal. So if we diagnose an abnormal position we will be prepared to deal with it, knowing that if there is any change in the position it will be towards the normal.

6. It must be acknowledged that its value is greater before than during labor. Before labor it is ten times more certain than vaginal examination, and even in labor, especially at the first of it, you can generally make a correct diagnosis by this method.

7. It practically eliminates the danger of infection through the vagina, owing to germs being carried upon your hands during some of the repeated examinations. It is now an acknowledged fact that we cannot completely sterilize our hands. Of course, we can wear gloves which can be boiled, but the great source of infection is the vulvæ, and the insurmountable barrier is that women will not consent to have *them* boiled. (McIlwraith.)

8. The progress of labor can be judged just as accurately after a little practice by this method as it can by repeated vaginal examinations.

9. It compels a man to study the different positions of the child and their relations to the birth canal before he can use this method, and thus it makes him a more intelligent obstetrician.