

uterus, we can now turn our attention to the lower pole of the fetus, and in studying its position we will first make use of the superficial pudic, or pawlic's grip. It is made by the fingers of the right hand. Place the thumb over the right Poupart's ligament, and the fingers over the left. Now gently sink them down and approximate them so as to grasp the lower pole of the fetus. Sometimes the layer of fat in the abdominal wall will obscure what you are feeling, and in these cases you can often improve the condition, by trying to insert your fingers in the interval between the fat and the ligament so as to lift the pad of fat up out of the way. (McIlwraith.) In this locality you would either grasp the head or the breech. The breech is much larger, more indefinite, much softer, less movable and presents no sulcus as one would feel between the head and the anterior shoulder, while the head is much smaller, is more movable, and presents the characteristic cannon-ball feeling which is so easily learned and is so impossible to mistake for any other part of the fetus. By using this grip we can determine thirteen diagnostic points:

1. Whether it is a breech or head presentation, as already described.

2. It is especially useful to distinguish a normal from an abnormal head presentation, because by this means you can diagnose between vertex, brow and face presentations, by observing the relative position of the chin and the occiput above Poupart's ligament. By occiput is meant the prominence of the occipital protuberance. In a normal case the head being well flexed, the fingers will naturally sink deeper on the side of the occiput than they will on the side of the flexed chin. (See diagram 1.) However, if the chin becomes extended you will get a brow presentation, the occiput will be thrown back, and it will be equally easy for you to sink your fingers on either side. Exaggerate this a little more and you get a face presentation, and this time the chin being fully extended, the fingers sink more easily on its side than they do upon the side which is now mostly occupied by the occiput (Diagram 3), or, according to Jewett, "If the chin lies higher than the occiput it is a vertex (Diagram 1): if both are at the same level, it is a brow, and if the chin is lower than the occiput it is a face presentation." (By "higher" Jewett means nearer to the fundus uteri.) (Diagram 3.)

3. If the chin can be felt anteriorly the case must be an occipital posterior, because the back of the head is against the posterior wall of the uterus.