

The position of the body, the angles of his arms and hands, should be chosen in such a way that with a minimum of force the maximum of speed, safety and force of movement may be accomplished; in short, that the operator shall work "at a maximum advantage." Such a mechanical calculation excludes manipulations with twisted or crossed arms in a fatiguing, unskillful and uncomfortable position.

To fully exploit the advantages it is necessary to have the centre of the area of performance of the concurrently working hands placed in "the nuclear point of the cavity of exploration."* The latter is at the point where both hands, the volar surfaces of the finger tips turned against each other, may touch each other in a natural, unconstrained attitude; that is before the median line of the body at about the operator's chest height.

In order to let the centre of the operating field coincide with the nuclear point of the cavity of exploration, the operator will change his position corresponding to that of the patient. He may also change the position of the patient, or that of the fetus, according to the position of the nuclear point of the cavity of exploration which is most convenient to him. A skillful obstetrician will obtain by frequently changing his position towards the field of operation about as many advantages as he would by moving the operating field through reposition of the parturient woman. From this it follows that, whenever possible, the convenience of the operator is to be subordinated to that of the patient, especially as reposition requires additional help, is liable to interfere with the anesthetic and may impair asepsis. For the fetus such considerations are dispensed with. The fetus may be placed and turned in whatever position the successful issue of the case may require.

The operator being placed between the legs of the woman, who lies across the bed, and directly facing the pelvis of the patient, the field of operation is at once in the nuclear point of the cavity of exploration, as, for instance, in the extraction of a

* The relation of the tactile sense to gynecologic-obstetrical palpation have been described in detail in the following books of the author: "Das Auge des Geburtshelfers," Wiesbaden, 1908, J. F. Bergmann, and "Die geburtshilflich-gynakologische Untersuchung," a Guide for Students and Practitioners. Third Edition. Freiburg i.B. 1910, Speyer & Kärner.