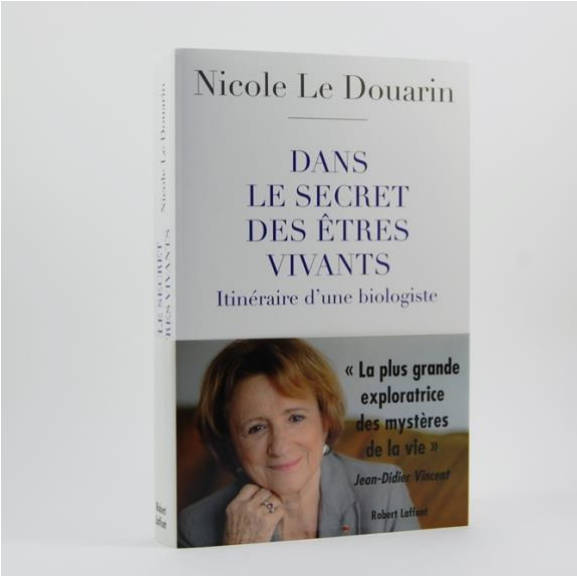
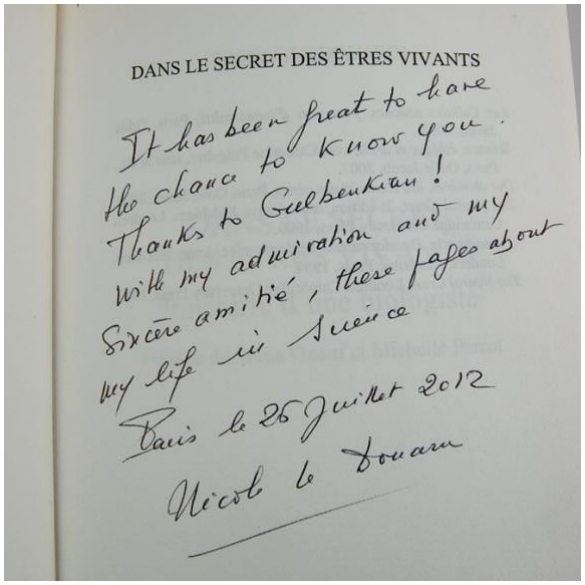
Alembic RARE ⊖ BOOKS

REPRODUCTION:
12 BOOKS ON SEX, EMBRYOLOGY & OBSTETRICS





1. **(Brenner, Sydney) Douarin, Nicole le. Dans le Secret des Êtres Vivants. Itinéraire d'une Biologiste. Péreface de Mona Ozouf et Michelle Perrot.**
Paris: Robert Laffont, 2012.
Pefect bound. Original white wrappers printed in blue and black. With the publisher's wraparound band. Minor bump to head of spine. An excellent, fresh copy.

First edition, first impression, paperback issue. Presentation copy inscribed by the author to Nobel Prize-winning biologist Sydney Brenner on the half title, "It has been great to have the chance to know you. Thanks to Gulbenkian! With my admiration and my sincére amitié, these pages about my life in science. Paris, le 26 Juillet 2012, Nicole le Douarin". Gulbenkian probably refers to the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, a philanthropic organisation which may have held a conference at which Douarin and Brenner met.

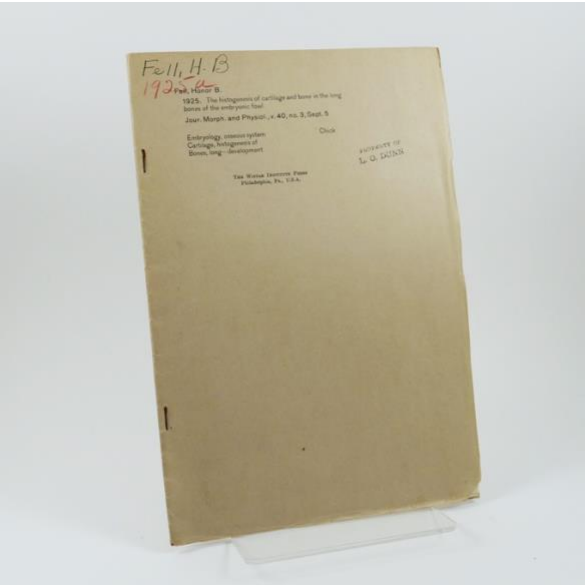
Author Nicole le Douarin (1930 -) is a leader in the field of developmental biology. She has designed important techniques for studying differentiation in embryos, most importantly the creation of chimeras in which cells from two different species can be individually tracked as they develop into organ systems. Crucially, she used this technique to elucidate the early development of the nervous and immune systems. Douarin has recieved numerous accolades for her work. "In 1988 she was only the third woman in 500 years to be admitted as a member of the College de France. In 1989 she was elected as a member of the US National Academy of Science and in 1990 as a fellow of the Royal Society. She also received the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine in

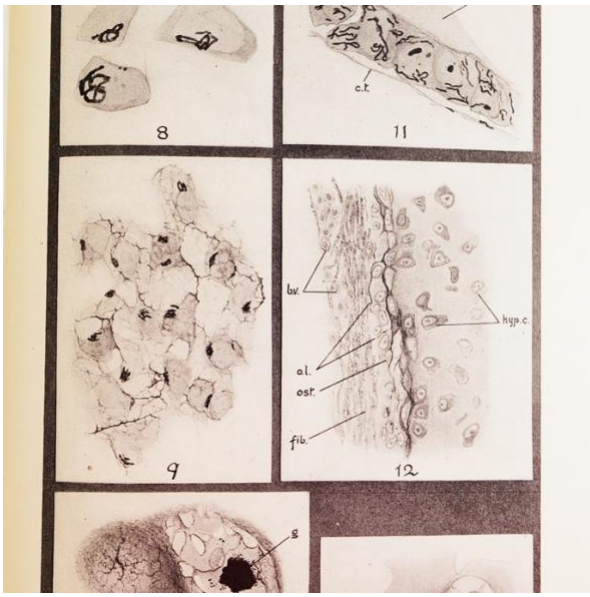
1990 and in 1991 she became an officer of the Légion d'Honneur. In 1993 she received the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize from Columbia University. She is an honorary fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (2002) and was the first recipient of the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize for women in science and biology (2004)" (*The Embryo Project Encyclopedia*).

Recipient Sydney Brenner (1927 -) has been a leader in the field of genetics almost from the moment he received his doctorate at Oxford in 1954. He joined Francis Crick's laboratory in 1956, and they did ground-breaking research on how DNA is decoded by cells. Brenner proposed that the nucleotides which comprise DNA (adenine, guanine, thiamine and cytosine) are read by the cell in sets of three called codons, with each codon representing an amino acid (for example, three adenines in a row is the codon for the amino acid lysine). A gene is simply a string of codons that directs the production of a protein molecule from individual amino acids. He also correctly predicted the existence of messenger RNA, the molecule that carries the genetic code from the nucleus to the ribosomes, where the translation process occurs.

Following this work, it was Brenner's efforts to establish a new laboratory organism for the study of genetics that led to his Nobel Prize. "Beginning in 1965, he began to lay the groundwork to make C. elegans, a small, transparent nematode, into a major model organism for genetics, neurobiology and developmental biology research. As a direct result of his original vision, this tiny worm became the first animal for which the complete cell lineage and entire neuronal wiring were known. Today, more than 1,000 investigators are studying C. elegans, and Brenner's work was further honored when a closely related nematode was named Caenorhabditis brenneri" (Salk Institute biography).

00320 **£250**





2. **Fell, Honor B. "The Histogenesis of Cartilage and Bone in the Long Bones of the Embryonic Fowl" [in] The Journal of Morphology and Physiology, Vol. 40, No. 3, Sept. 5, 1925.**

Philadelphia: The Wistar Institute Press, 1925.

Octavo. 44-page offprint, wire-stitched, original buff wrappers printed in black. 4 illustrations from photomicrographs within the text. Author's name in black ink, "1925a" in red crayon, and ownership stamp of L. G. Dunn to the upper cover. Two-inch closed tear to the title not affecting text, staples rusted, a little light rubbing and some short nicks to the edges of the wrappers. Very good condition.

First edition, first printing. The rare offprint of the first major work by prominent cell biologist Honor B. Fell (1900-1986). We can locate only one institutional copy of this offprint, at the University of Southern California.

Fell's childhood interest in animals and nature was encouraged by her parents, and she received what was at the time an unusually science-focused education. She earned four degrees at St. Andrews and the University of Edinburgh, and then went to Cambridge "to learn a new technique pioneered by T. S. P. Strangeways in his research hospital. Tissues culture was a relatively new art at this time, and he had developed it to the extent that he could study the behavior of living cells on a warm stage. Fell was impressed, and when Strangeways offered her a job as scientific assistant with a grant from the Medical Research Council, she accepted. Her first major study was on chick embryos, examining their cartilage and bones. This work culminated in her first important paper from the Strangeways in 1925, a study of the histogenesis of bone and cartilage in the long bone of embryonic chicks. From this beginning, she used techniques of organ culture to analyze the actions of various agents upon the cells of bone, cartilage, and associated tissues. The preliminary study was continued, and in 1926 she and Strangeways demonstrated that cartilage would not only grow but would differentiate in culture" (Ogilvie, *Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science*, p. 440).

When Strangeways died in 1926 Fell was appointed director of the institute, a position she held for the next forty-one years, performing important research on vitamin A and rheumatoid arthritis, and producing research that led to the discovery of interleuken-1, an important agent of the immune system. Fell was made a fellow of the Royal Society and Dame Commander of the British Empire, and received honorary degrees from Harvard, Cambridge, and Smith College.

00646 **£500**

3. **Magnus, Albertus. De Secretis Mulierum. Item de Virtutibus Herbarum Lapidum et Animalium.**
Amsterdam: Johannes Janssonius, 1643.
Duodecimo. 19th-century olive calf, spine gilt in compartments with fleur-de-lis tools, red morocco label, double gilt fillets, marbled endpapers, gilt turn-ins, green silk bookmark detached. Engraved architectural title depicting a

woman in labour, decorative initials. 19th-century armorial bookplate and label of Thomas Westwood, and his manuscript note in ink to the verso of the front free endpaper, "Izaak Walton is supposed to have quoted this work at second-hand, through Topsel's 'History of Four-Footed Beasts & Serpents' p. 421 (edit of 1607)". Bookplate of L. F. Salzmann dated 1899. The covers which were previously detached have been professionally reattached with tissue at the hinges by Bainbridge Conservation. Old repairs to cracks and chips in the spine, calf rubbed and a little worn at the edges, occasional faint dampstain in the margins. Very good condition.

The 1643 Amsterdam edition of this "misogynist masterpiece", the influential and widely disseminated work of natural philosophy that laid the intellectual foundations for early modern witch persecutions (Cabre, review of *Women's Secrets* in ISIS volume 85, no 3, 1994). The publisher of this edition was Johannes Janssonius (1588-1664), Willem Blaeu's main rival in map publishing, and it includes an engraved title depicting the mythological figure Callisto, in labour and appealing to the goddess Artemis.

This copy has a distinguished provenance, having been in the library of the poet and angling bibliographer Thomas Westwood (1814-1888), who added a manuscript note on Izaak Walton's second-hand quotation of *De Secretis*. It was later owned by the medievalist and economic historian Louis Francis Salzmann (1878-1971), and was most recently in the library of noted barrister and bibliophile Sir George Engle (1926-2016).

Long attributed to Albertus Magnus, *De Secretis* was probably composed by one of his followers during the late 13th or early 14th century, and survives in around 83 manuscript copies, of which 50 were printed in the 15th century and over 70 in the 16th (Lemay, *Women's Secrets. A Translation of Pseudo-Albertus Magnus's De Secretis Mulierum with Commentaries*, p. 1). Though the contents cover what we would now consider obstetrics and gynaecology, including menstruation, spermatogenesis, conception, fetal development, and infertility, the text is not a practical medical manual but a philosophical exploration of the human body and its relation to the cosmos.

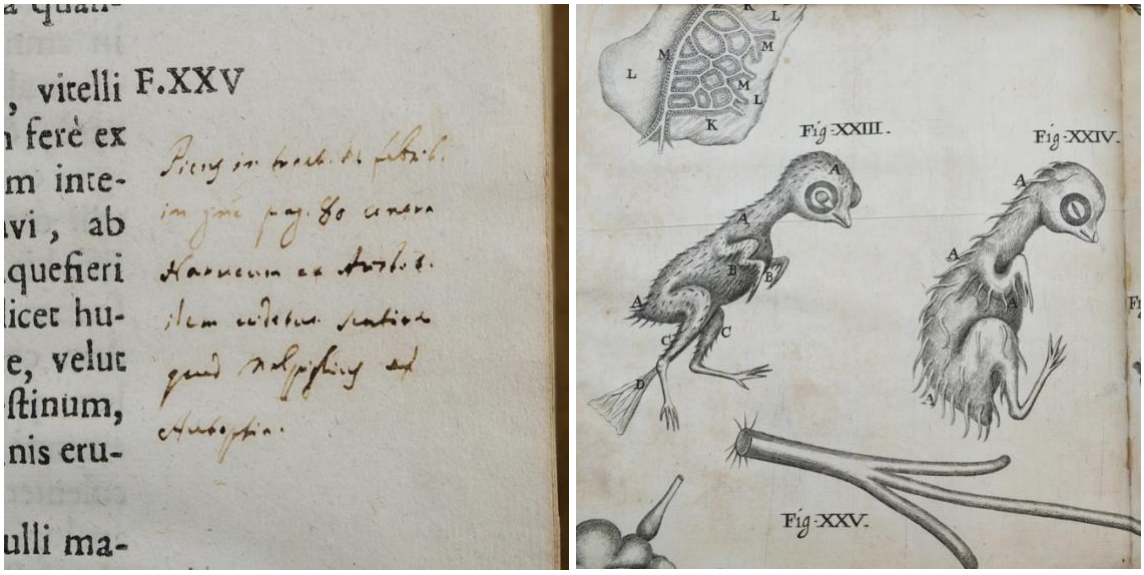
As a follower of Albertus Magnus, the treatises's author "believed that the study of nature as perceived through sense experience and then analyzed in a rational manner forms a single discipline through which we come to comprehend the universe in its corporeal aspects. Human reproduction, a main subject of this treatise, is one of these aspects, that nevertheless has repercussions for our understanding of the entire cosmos. This becomes particularly evident in the treatment given to astrological influences on the developing fetus. Pseudo-Albert begins his discussion by outlining how the sphere of the fixed stars confers upon the fetus various virtues, and moves back and forth from particular celestial effects to a general treatment of prime matter and the intelligences" (Lemay, p. 3).

De Secretis was most likely "designed to be used within a religious community as a vehicle for instructing priests in natural philosophy, particularly as it pertains to human generation... A strong subtext of the *Secrets*, however, is the evil nature of women and the harm they can cause to their innocent victims: young children and their male consorts. Clearly then, another purpose of this treatise is to malign the female sex, a tradition that extends back in Christianity to second-century misogynist writings" (Lemay, p. 16).

Among the concepts that the text popularised were the idea that women's menstrual blood was poisonous, that post-menopausal women (especially those who were poor) were more "venomous" because they could no longer expel the toxins, and that women were inherently lascivious beings with a physiological need to absorb the heat and life force of men. "It is these misogynistic ideas about women's sexuality that seeded their demonization in the years that followed, as the *Secrets* served as a direct source for the *Malleus maleficarum*. Indeed, the most

famous statement from the *Malleus* explicitly connects witchery with ideas about women's sexuality rooted in the medieval period: 'All witchcraft comes from carnal lust, which is in women insatiable"' (McLemore, "Medieval Sexuality, Medical Misogyny, and the Makings of the Modern Witch", blog of the University of Notre Dame's Medieval Studies Institute, October 30, 2020).

00719 **£550**



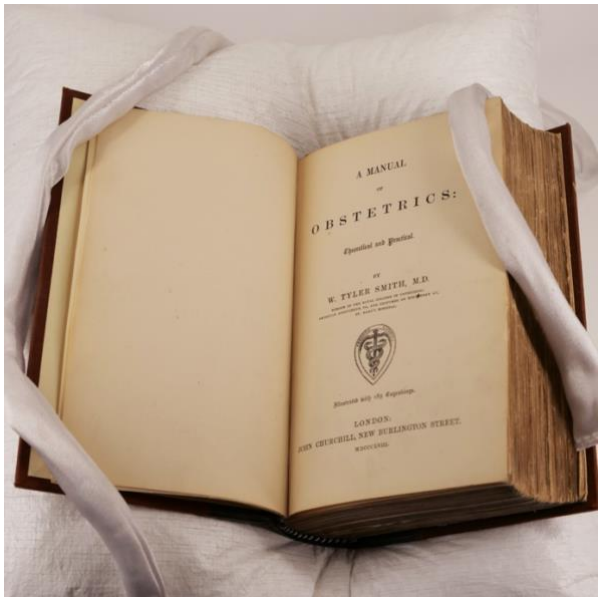
4. **Malpighi, Marcello. Dissertatio Epistolica de Formatione Pulli in Ovo.** London: John Martyn, 1673.

Quarto (242 x 167mm). Recently rebound to style in panelled calf, red morocco spine label. Contemporary manuscript notes to title and page 25. Plates on new guards, edges of plates just a little frayed, small, professional repairs to plates 2, 3, and 4, not affecting the images. An excellent, fresh and wide-margined copy.

First edition, large-paper copy, of this fundamental work which "placed the study of embryology on a sound basis, surpassing in accuracy all other contemporary work on the subject and foreshadowing some of the more important general lines of research in embryology" (Garrison & Morton 469).

"As with his investigations in comparative anatomy, Malpighi was led to embryological research as a means of understanding more highly developed structures. His study of the development of the chicken in the egg went far beyond the work of Harvey and Fabrici, dealing with the internal structures to an unprecedented extent: his chief discoveries, illustrated in his four beautifully detailed plates, were the vascular areas embraced by the terminal sinus, the cardiac tube and its segmentation, the aortic arches, the somites, the neural folds and neural tube, the cerebral and optic vesicles, the protoliver, the glands of the prestomach, and the feather follicles. Malpighi established the paths of subsequent embryological research, making the important connection between emryogenesis and phylogenesis, and playing a formative role in the development of preformationist theory, which would pose a strong challenge to the traditional doctrine of epigenesis" (Norman 1429).

Garrison & Morton 469; Norman 1429; Wing M350 00594 **£3,000**



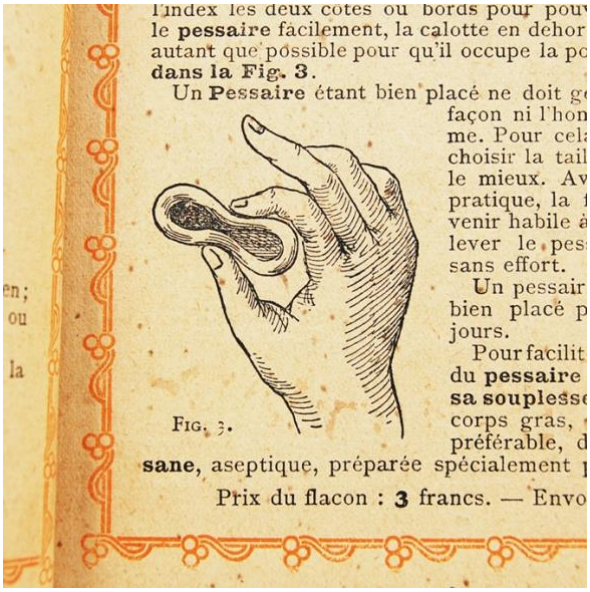
5. **Smith, W[illiam] Tyler. A Manual of Obstetrics: Theoretical and Practical. Illustrated with 185 Engravings.**
London: John Churchill, 1858.
Octavo (170 x 103 mmm). Late 20th century quarter dark brown calf, brown cloth sides, new dark brown calf labels, new endpapers. Steel engravings throughout the text. Half page of related manuscript notes in pencil to the verso of the rear free endpaper, occasional pencil notations in the text. Text well-thumbed with some toning of the edges of the leaves, particularly at the rear. Very good condition.

First edition of one of the key Victorian obstetrics manuals. Uncommon in commerce.

Physician William Tyler Smith (1815-1873) earned his MD in 1848 and for several years worked mainly as a writer and educator, serving on the editorial staff of *The Lancet* and helping found the Medical Directory in 1845. Beginning in 1851 he worked as an obstetrician and lecturer at St. Mary's Hospital, and was examiner of obstetrics at the University of London for the typical term of five years. Smith was one of the founders of the Obstetrical Society and was elected its second president in 1860. "The subsequent success of the society was largely due to his contributions in memoirs and in debate and to his capacity for work" (ODNB).

"Urged by his close friend Marshall Hall, Smith studied the applications of the reflex function to obstetrics, with the result that the practice of obstetrics became, for the first time, guided by physiological principle. The results of his researches were published in The Lancet in the form of weekly lectures. The earliest series was collected and issued separately as *Parturition, and the Principles and Practice of Obstetrics* (1849), with a dedication to Hall. Some further lectures similarly contributed to The Lancet formed the basis of his Manual of Obstetrics (1858). Both books are remarkable considering they were written when Smith had little practical experience. *The Manual of Obstetrics* immediately became, and long remained, the favourite textbook in Britain, despite being defective in certain practical aspects, especially regarding operative procedures" (ODNB).

00478 **£650**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6. **Société Excelsior. Préservatifs pour Dames. Préservatifs de tous modèles. Insufflateurs de Poudre Anticonceptionnelle. Pessaires Américains. Éponges préservatives. Appareils d'hygiène féminine. Produits et Objets intimes nouveaux.**
Paris: Société Excelsior, c. 1907.
Duodecimo. 64 page catalogue, original blue wrappers printed in red and black. Orange decorative border to each page, engravings throughout. Wrappers a little rubbed and creased, small white spot to the upper wrapper and a darker spot to the lower, light wear at the spine ends, contents toned and with occasional light spots. Very good condition.

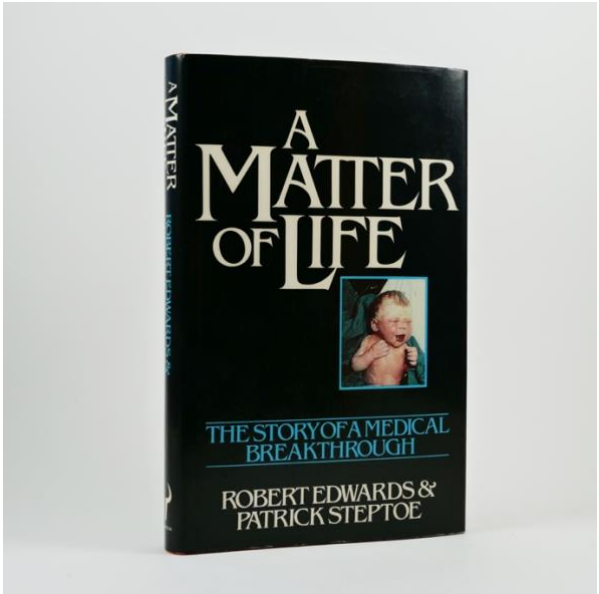
A nice copy of this rare French contraceptives catalogue, first issued around 1907 and decorated in the Art Nouveau style.

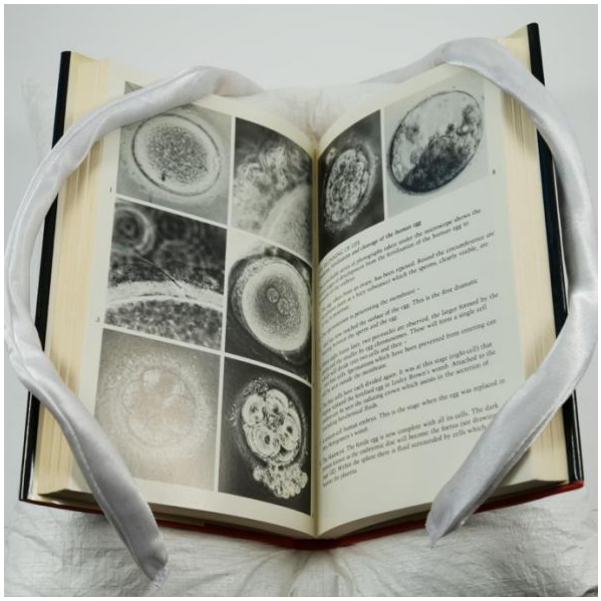
At the time this catalogue was published family planning was being championed by French syndicalists as a response to capitalist exploitation, an idea that influenced both Emma Goldman and Margaret Sanger. However, Sanger's insistence that she was forced to travel to Paris to get information on contraceptives was a clever bit of self-mythologising; despite the passage of the Comstock Act in 1873, resources were available in the United States. It's therefore interesting to note that the catalogue's title page advertises "Pessaires Américains", showing that the exoticising of contraception travelled in both directions across the Atlantic.

Among the articles advertised here are diaphragms (only recently invented), sponges, douches and enemas, belts for sanitary napkins, lubricant ("pommade virginale"), antiseptic creams and artificial breasts, as well as novelties such as chastity belts and intimate perfume. Included are numerous engravings depicting the products, as well as two diagrams of the female reproductive system.

This catalogue is rare; there are no auction records and WorldCat locates no copies with this specific title. Institutionally, there is only one other contraceptives catalogue by the same publisher, at the Bibliothèque Interuniversitaire de Santé, Paris.

00309 **£550**





7. **Steptoe, Patrick & Robert Edwards. A Matter of Life. The Story of a Medical Breakthrough.**
London: Hutchinson, 1980.
Octavo. Original red boards, titles to spine in silver. With the dust jacket. 8 double-sided plates from black and white photographs. A fine copy in the jacket.

First edition, first impression of this account of the development of in-vitro fertilisation by the two scientists responsible for the breakthrough. Inscribed from author Patrick Steptoe to media presenter Bob Holness (1928-2012) on the front free endpaper, "With the compliments of Patrick Steptoe, March 1980". Though Holness's name does not appear in this copy, it was purchased as part of his library. Before fronting the gameshow Blockbusters Holness had an extensive career in radio, most notably as co-host of LBC's AM Programme between 1975 and 1985, and many of his guests, like Steptoe, inscribed copies of their books for him. Copies of *A Matter of Life* signed or inscribed are particularly uncommon, especially in such lovely condition.

At an early stage in his medical career, Patrick Steptoe (1913-1988) developed, "a special interest in female infertility. Diagnostic techniques, particularly in relation to pelvic pathology and endocrinology, were rudimentary, but laparoscopy and culdoscopy were being introduced at centres in Europe and North America. Steptoe visited these centres and established lasting friendships and collaboration with Raoul Palmer in Paris and Hans Frangenheim in Germany. He became the first gynaecologist to develop laparoscopy in Britain, lectured at the first international symposium in gynaecological laparoscopy in Palermo in 1964, and published the first English book on the subject, *Laparoscopy in Gynaecology*, in 1967. He described not only the potential for accurate diagnosis in relation to problems of infertility, pelvic infection and pain, ectopic pregnancy, and endometriosis, but also explored the therapeutic aspects of surgical laparoscopy. Within a decade this led to the incorporation of laparoscopy into everyday gynaecological practice.

It was at a meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine in 1968 that Robert Edwards first approached Steptoe. A young geneticist and embryologist, Edwards had already done outstanding work on in vitro fertilization. The collaboration between the two men lasted for twenty years until Steptoe's death. It resulted in the delivery on 25 July 1978 of Louise Brown, the first 'test-tube' baby born after laparoscopic oocyte recovery, in vitro fertilization, and transfer of the eight-cell embryo into the mother's uterus. Steptoe and Edwards reported the

bare facts in a dramatic letter to *The Lancet* (12 August 1978) and gave a full account of their work at a historic scientific meeting at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on 26 January 1979.

Following Steptoe's retirement from the National Health Service in 1978, he and Edwards founded the Bourn Hall Clinic, near Cambridge, in 1980. Edwards was the first scientific director and Steptoe, as medical director, continued seeing patients until his death, while at the same time training juniors, lecturing worldwide, and collaborating in more than fifty scientific papers" (ODNB).

00566 **£450**

8. **Stopes, Marie C. Contraception (Birth Control) Its Theory, History and Practice. A Manual for the Medical and Legal Professions.** With an Introduction by Sir William Bayliss and Introductory Notes by Sir James Barr.
London: John Bale, Sons & Danielsson, Limited, 1924.
Octavo. Original green cloth, titles to spine and upper board gilt. 4 plates from photographs. Extremities lightly rubbed, a little light spotting and toning of the endpapers. An excellent copy.

Third impression, published the year after the first. At its publication *Contraception*, by birth control advocate, palaeontologist, and eugenicist Marie Stopes, was "widely held to be the most comprehensive volume on the subject ever published" ("Exploring Women in Science Through the Lisa Unger Baskin Collection", Duke University Libraries website).

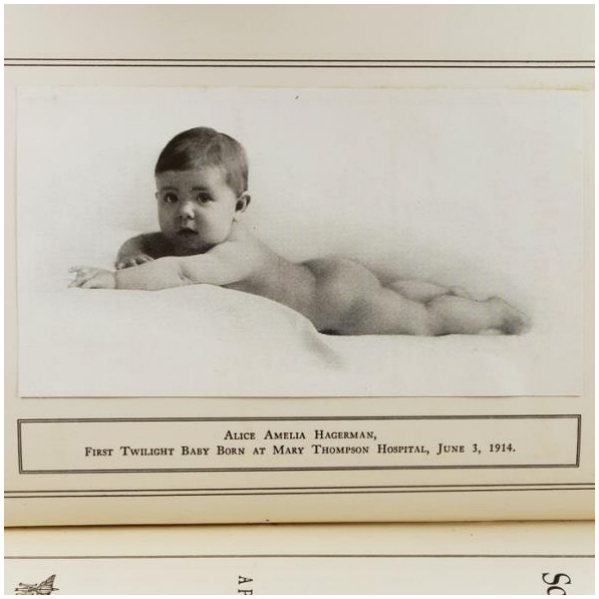
00630 **£35**

9. **Stopes, Marie C. Enduring Passion. Further New Contributions to the Solution of Sex Difficulties being the continuation of Married Love.**
London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1928.
Octavo. Original purple cloth, titles to spine gilt. With the dust jacket. Integral 6-page publishers ads at rear. Spine rolled, light grey blooom to cloth, heavy spotting to edge of the text block, occasional spots to contents. A good copy in the jacket with a large chip affecting the heads of the spine and upper panels, including the title, as well as dampstain and spotting and some smaller chips and splits.

First edition, first impression of this work on problems with sexual health, including "excessive virility", "frigidity", premature ejaculation, and mid-life changes. 00631 **£35**

10. **Stopes, Marie C. Radiant Motherhood. A Book for Those Who are Creating the Future.**
London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, Ltd., 1920.
Octavo. Original plum cloth, titles to spine gilt. 9 pages of integral publisher's ads at rear. Spine rolled, cloth a little rubbed and dulled with a couple of small marks, endpapers and half title toned. A very good copy.

First edition, first impression. *Radiant Motherhood* was the most explicitly eugenic of Stopes's books. Though most of the chapters detail the physical and emotional effects of pregnancy and parenthood for both men and women, chapter 20, "The Creation of a New and Irradiated Race", explicitly describes the "increasing ill-health and deterioration of our race" and the "vast and ever increasing stock of degenerate, feeble-minded and unbalanced who are now in our midst and who devastate social customs" and suggests Parliament legislate sterilisation of these categories by several means, including irradiation. 00629 **£50**



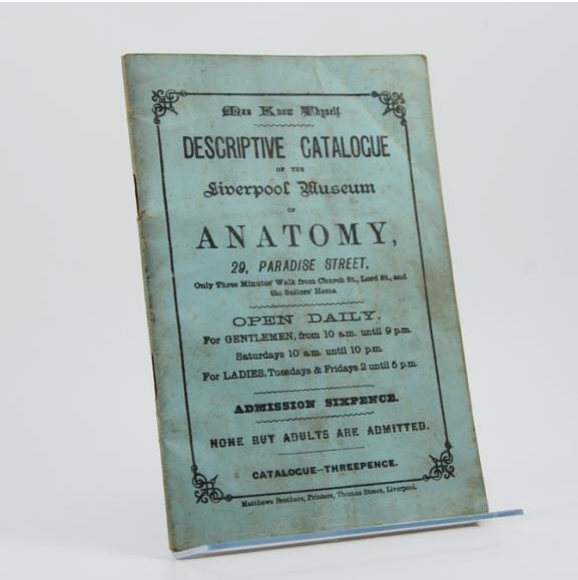
11. **Van Hoosen, Bertha. Scopolamine-Morphine Anaesthesia. A Psychological Study of "Twilight Sleep" Made by the Giessen Method.**
Chicago: The House of Manz, 1915.
Octavo. Original brown cloth, titles to spine and upper board in black. Tipped-in photographic frontispiece and 8 plates from photographs. From the library of the Los Angeles Medical Association, with partially removed numbers at the tail of the spine, blind stamp to the title and page 49, pencilled library notes to the contents list, remnants of a bookplate to the front pastedown, and abraded spots on the rear pastedown where the the card pocket was removed. Cloth a little rubbed and marked with a small knock to the edge of the lower board and a scuff affecting the same board. Contents clean. A very good copy.

First edition of this important book on the use of "twilight sleep" anaesthesia during labour by the female surgeon who first advocated its use in the United States. Rare, with WorldCat listing only electronic copies, and only one copy appearing in auction records (Bonhams 2020).

Born into a Michigan farming family, Bertha van Hoosen (1863-1952) insisted on a medical education despite her parent's active opposition, and put herself through school by working as a teacher, obstetrical nurse, and demonstrator in anatomy. After graduating she opened a private practice and also worked at the Woman's Medical School of Northwestern University and as a professor of clinical gynaecology at the Illinois University Medical School. In 1918 Van Hoosen became the first woman to head a medical division at a coeducational university when she was appointed professor and head of obstetrics at Loyola. She was a founder and first president of the American Medical Women's Association, and advocated for women physicians to serve in the First World War.

"Throughout her career, Bertha van Hoosen's major interest was in women's health. She was an excellent general surgeon, but she was particularly concerned with women and children. She pioneered the use of scopolamine-morphine anaesthesia for childbirth. Although this method, known as twilight sleep, had become popular in Germany, it was not used in the United States. She produced a book and two articles on her research in this area" (Ogilvie, *Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science* p. 1320).

00703 **£450**



12. **[Woodhead, Joseph]. Catalogue or Guide to the Liverpool Museum of Anatomy. 29, Paradise Street. This superb collection with all the latest additions, comprising upwards of 1000 models and diagrams, procured at the anatomical galleries of Paris, Florence, and Munich. Now forms the largest collection of anatomical preparations in England, with one exception only, namely of the Royal College of Surgeons' Museum.**
Liverpool: Matthews Brothers, Printers, [c. 1870s].
64 page pamphlet. Original light blue wrappers printed in black. Engraving depicting the museum on the lower wrapper, 1 engraving within the text. Wrappers rubbed, dulled, and spotted, minor crease to the upper corner slightly affecting the contents. Very good condition.

The rare catalogue of the Liverpool Museum of Anatomy, describing in detail the Museum's contents and policies, and illustrating its interior by an engraving on the lower cover.

The Liverpool Museum of Anatomy was one of a number of such museums in the UK and US that specialised in wax anatomical models and, unlike many of the museums of professional medical organisations, were open to the public. Though the stated goal was always education, particularly regarding reproduction and the dangers of sexual vice, these museums also traded on the shock or titillation value of their exhibits and some were targeted by the medical establishment as purveyors of vice and quackery.

The proprietor of the Liverpool Museum was the physician Joseph Thornton Woodhead, who describes himself as "having spent thirty years in the study and treatment of diseases affecting the mental and generative organs, nervous and dyspeptic debility, either constitutional or acquired, decline of physical vigor, loss of mental energy, and the numerous concomitants to sexual disorganisation" and writes that those afflicted can consult him "personally at his establishment daily from 11am till 9pm, Sundays excepted", while those living outside town could write (p. 63).

The Liverpool Museum offered a wide variety of exhibits on the human body, including most of the internal organs; the skeleton; digestion ("articles of human food, and what they are converted into"); common surgical procedures such as the removal of kidney stones; and the usual exhibits on STDs, obstetrics (including a caesarean section model and anatomical venuses), masturbation, circumcision, hermaphrodites, and "freaks of nature". The admittance of women into such museums was controversial, but defended by many proprietors as an important educational

opportunity for women who cared for their families' health. This booklet advertises the Museum's hours of admission for ladies as being Tuesdays and Fridays from 2-5pm, and also offers a course of six lectures on midwifery (p. 26). One of the exhibits aimed specifically at women was on the "dreadful effects of tight lacing", being "a magnificant full-length figure in wax, the model of a young lady... who having from her earliest childhood accustomed herself to the pernicious habit of tight lacing, suddenly dropped down dead in the arms of her partner while dancing" (p. 52).

The Museum's timeline is difficult to determine from historical sources (and it seems to have moved between Liverpool and Manchester several times), but in this booklet Woodhead claims that it had already been open for forty years. It appears to have been tolerated by the medical establishment until 1874, when Woodhead was prosecuted under the Obscene Publications Act. "To Woodhead's justification 'that the Royal College of Surgeons possesses, and admits the public to, an exhibition similar to his own'", the magistrate replied that 'he could understand museums of the character of the defendant's being connected with the hospitals and medical colleges, but when they came into the hands of private individuals they were likely to produce serious evils' (Bates, "Indecent and Demoralising Representations: Public Anatomy Museums in mid-Victorian England", *Medical History* vol. 52, January 2008). The Museum was closed and the exhibits sold to Louis Tussaud's waxworks show.

This catalogue is rare. A search on WorldCat locates only four copies, at the Wellcome Library, Harvard, the University of Rochester, and the Getty Research Institute.

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