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## Interrupted Fertility

### A Case by Dr. Taylor 1777

This case history was resurrected from the societies archives by C .Vaughn Ruckley.

### Abstract

Mrs Buff, wife of Mr Buff, silk weaver in Fashion Street in Spitafields, London, aged twenty-seven years the mother of several children, on 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1774, having gone her usual time of pregnancy, was attended by her midwife several days, but the labour pains ceasing, the midwife left her promising to return soon but did not fulfil her promise. Mrs B. not being delivered of her child, thought she might have a month longer to go and went about her domestic affairs as usual. Christmas following she prov'd with child again and not being delivered of the former one she became uncommonly big and unwieldy, she applied to several physicians for advice and particularly to Dr. Wyman an eminent man midwife in Aldermanbury, who ordered her a variety of purgative medicines but without relief.

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(Scobie B.A. June 1998:211-212) presents the cases of two marathon runners who developed gastrointestinal emergencies during a competitive run. The first patient, a 35 year old female collapsed near the end of her race with abdominal cramps. At laparotomy the left half of the greater omentum was found to be infarcted and was resected. Further surgery due to persisting peritonism revealed that the remainder of the greater omentum was infarcted and an acute oedematous pancreatitis was found.

The second athlete was a 27 year old male. After 10 km he collapsed semi-comatose and

was found to be hypoglycaemic (blood glucose 2.0 mmol/l). Following intravenous resuscitation he regained consciousness but registered a temperature of 39.5°C. He developed D.I.C., rhabdomyolysis, renal shutdown and progressive hepatic failure. His condition stabilised following dialysis, however, his hepatic function declined and died on the 32<sup>nd</sup> day.

The authors examine the pathological processes in the two cases and suggest that they provide support for ischaemia being a major contributor to GI catastrophes in marathon runners.

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# Interrupted Fertility

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Mrs Buff, wife of Mr Buff, silk weaver in Fashion Street in Spitafields, London, aged twenty-seven years the mother of several children, on 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1774, having gone her usual time of pregnancy, was attended by her midwife several days, but the labour pains ceasing, the midwife left her promising to return soon but did not fulfil her promise. Mrs B. not being delivered of her child, thought she might have a month longer to go and went about her domestic affairs as usual. Christmas following she prov'd with child again and not being delivered of the former one she became uncommonly big and unwieldy, she applied to

several physicians for advice and particularly to Dr. Wyman an eminent man midwife in Aldermanbury, who ordered her a variety of purgative medicines but without relief. In June she sent for me, and after hearing the above narrative I assured her of being with child and in October following I laid her of a healthy living child. Having had an easy natural labour, she recovered very well until the tenth day, she was taken of a violent purging, her stools very offensive and of a dark bloody appearance, having taken some astrigent medicines with Diascordium and Diarrhoea ceas'd but was followed by profuse sweats

which weakened her considerably and she was obliged to wean the child I had laid her of, the sweats and purging stools having her for three months she was much reduced in her strength, about this time a thigh bone of a child came away in a purging bloody stool, a few days after half a frontis, two months after she passed half of the under jaw having the sockets of five teeth well marked. All these bones were of a brown darkish colour and were voided with purging bloody stools. March 5<sup>th</sup> a ragged piece of upper jaw came away, she begins now to recover her appetite and gets strength, the bones always come away with a purging and some coagulated blood with, and after, her stools with a sharp tremus.

During the summer she had passed several small bones, but her appetite and strength is much mended, having gone in a coach to Twickenham 4 miles distant from London she was so ill from the jolting that she was obliged to be brought home in a chair and the day following seventeen bones mostly ribs were

extracted, and as most of them lay transversely I was obliged to turn them and bring them out lengthways, this could not be effected without a great effusion of blood and the most excruciating pains. In October the remaining bones of the cranium came away all but one these bones having three edges were always followed a profuse haemorrhage. In November she was troubled by the Whites and a heat in her urine. In December the largest and only remaining bone of the cranium was extracted, the swelling of her belly subsided and she has recovered her strength greatly. In February 1776 her courses appeared and the next ensuing period, but both times by the anus, of which she made grievous complaint, I assured her they would soon come to the natural way, which happened the May following, since the above she has been married to a second husband, by whom she had three children. The girl which she was delivered in October 1775 is still alive and a fine healthy girl.