

Content Warning: abortion, miscarriage, menstruation, infant death, female body

"I must fill up this osier cage of ours / With baleful weeds and preciousjuiced flowers. / The earth that's nature's mother is her tomb. / What is
her burying grave, that is her womb; / And from her womb children of
divers kinds / We sucking on her natural bosom find, / Many for virtues
excellent, / None but for some, and yet all different. / O, fickle is the
powerful grace that lies / In plants, herbs, stones and their true
qualities...Within the infant rind of this weak flower / Poison hath
residence, and medicine power."

Romeo and Juliet, Act II.3.7-24



Legality and Disorder



An Act to prevent the Destroying and Murthering of Bastard Children.

1624

Biological Life vs. Personhood



Anne, Lady Pope with her children, Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger



Raphael Santi, Madonna of the Pinks, 1506, oil on canvas, National Gallery, London

Medical Theory





Adam and Eve, 1504, engraving by Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528)

→ How could you tell a woman was pregnant?

→You couldn't.







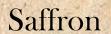
Wormwood/ Artemisia

Rosemary



Illustration by Otto Carl Berg & Carl Friedrich Schmidt

Flowers in October. Plan gr Saffron Flower So cultivated by planting the Roots in July or Jugart, in open free Ground about four Inches Designer, from one another





Pennyroyal

Sage

Privacy and Secrets





Sofonisba Anguissola, The Game of Chess, 1555

Artemisia Gentileschi, Judith Slaying Holofernes, 1612-1613

Midwives' Manuals

Nicholas Culpeper, *Directory for Midwives*, 1651

Jane Sharp, The Midwives' Book, 1671

42600

MIDWIVES BOOK.

Or the whole ART of

MIDWIFRY

DISCOVERED.
Directing Childbearing Women
how to behave themselves

In their Sconception, Breeding, Bearing, and Nurfing Sof CHILDREN.

In Six Books, Viz.

- 1. An Anatomical Description of the Parts of Alen and Women,
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- 111. The canjes and hinderance of conception and Barrenness, and of the painet and difficulties of Childbearing with their canjer, signes and cures.
- 1V. Rules to know when a woman is mear her labour, and when he we near conception, and how to order the Child when lara.
- V. How to order no new in Childbirth, and of Jeveral diffuses and curee for momen in that condition.
- Of Diferfer incident to momen after conception. Rules for the shoice of a maries her offices with proper cures for all dijeafer Incident to young Children.

By Mrs. Jane Sharp Practitioner in the Art of MIDWIFR Y above thirty years.

Wen End of St. Peab, 1671.

Receipt Books: More than just a cookbook



Receipt Book of Penelope Jephson [manuscript], 1671, 1674/5. Courtesy of Folger Shakespeare Library, LUNA V.a.396

Receipt Books!

- The Lady Allins

herb and flower, sechangeah work memord Mug work permanental drangen Scabious Agermanic Balm scordum sentuarie Cardus Bitone Losaesolus Marigold flowers come with Buglas Angellica hends anestor smenta of each of wife halfe a nound of these Losaes by acre halfe an ounce of these Losaes halfe an ounce of these Losaes halfe an ounce of these Licenoris halfe an ounce Street the Elicanoris halfe an ounce Street the Losaes by great the hearts, put theme was not with a quarte of whitnine court it & let it stund 2 days then devide it into 4 parts, and draw = 3 halfe halfe pints out of every part

"The Lady Allins Water"
Cookbook of Susanna Packe, 1674 V.a.215

Lady oftens wafer Jage Ofaline, Roomany, Rue, Worm wood Mayone primounth, Success, Fungon, desimony Balon, looke control, Sandy Bosony of each a good Randful, pron Maygots, Alicanfront, Tormsalol barnad ssork, Lolony, dugshea, Liquovish, of sail a litthm fal fewages the work class and the thom, can the Baid enghand exop. from them in agalon of legions, fill is in them sel justed a front half pool a song lays would from it was fitted. Tale a nound of Defator, sout them and million for the granky of an egg a possified of flower for 4 eggs four withouses, and hugar mix at sopother and ship show woll in a moster show boyle from in Stomach whiter of a sure and hate of devileds fingled some Merjoram as much dingities and four mine one orange pill cut thing a hand full of formary Hours, of Clove gilo flowers, Muscher, Someone Burrage flow 315, Bug top flowers, our Raw fal, safely at in so quart of thong boar, and one quart of denight water or brandy that flend one night fail it on it of lampich, old it july both yet to the ourse of will aspect fugareany and aponguest of fation is

"Lady Allens Water" Receipt Book of Jane Staveley, 1693

"In times of Heathenism when men had found out any excellent Herb, &c. they dedicated it to their gods, As the *Bay-tree* to *Apollo*, the *Oak* to *Jupiter*, the *Vine* to Bacchus, the Poplar to Hercules: These the Papists following as their Patriarchs, they dedicate them to their Saints, as our *Ladies Thistle* to the *Blessed Virgin*, St. *Johns Wort* to St. John...Alas poor Fools, I am sorry for their folly, and grieved at their Blasphemy; God send them the rest of their Age, for they have their share of Ignorance already; O! Why must ours be Blasphemous because the Heathens and Papists were Idolatrous? certainly they have read so much in old rusty Authors, that they have lost all their Divinity...I never read or heard of such Blasphemy."

Nicholas Culpeper, The English physitian enlarged

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