

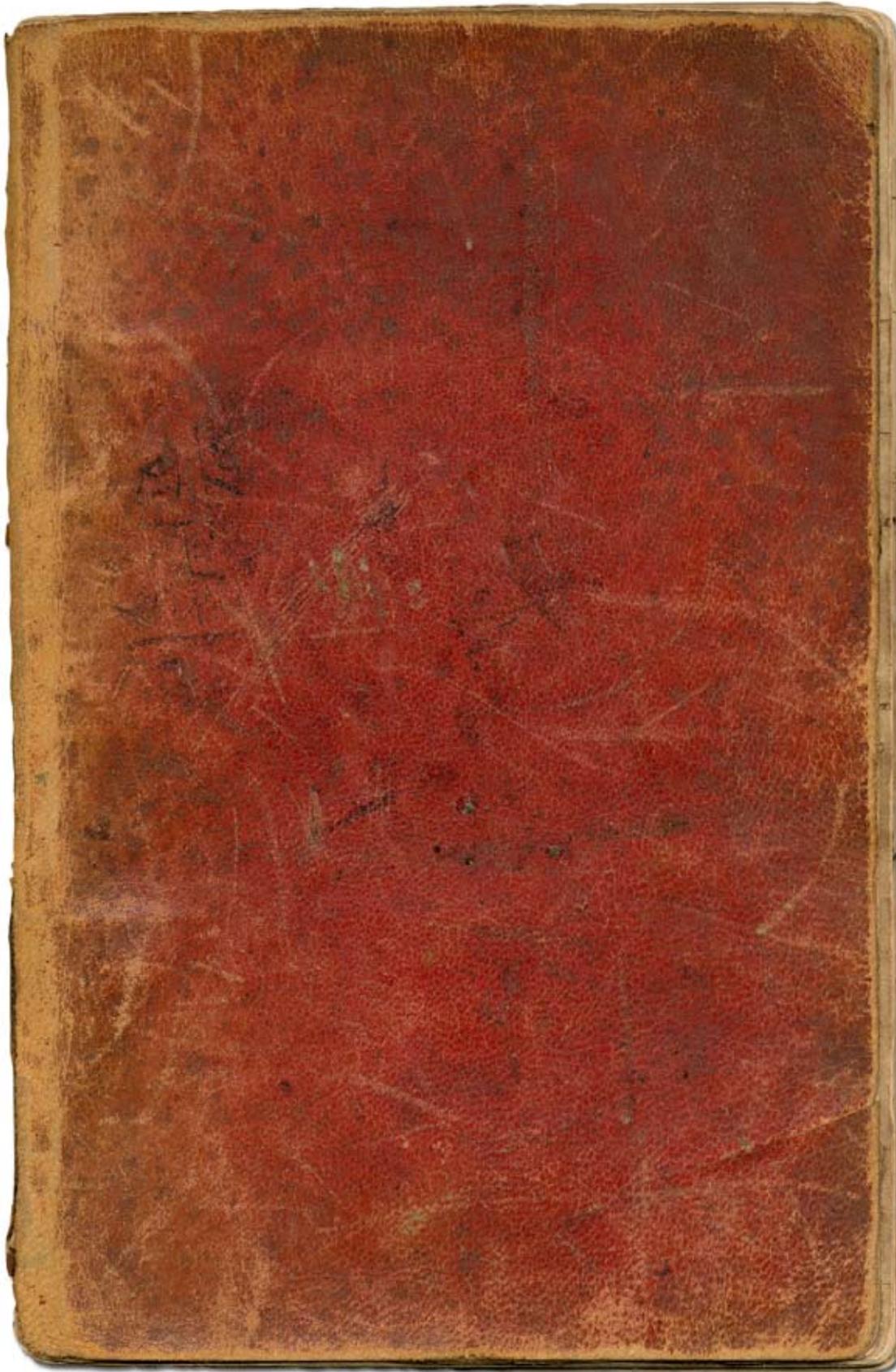
# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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*[Manuscript]: Journal of an English Midwife. Manuscript Observations of Births  
1834-1841*

\$5000



Small octavo. Original limp red sheep. [74]pp. Spine faded, slight loss at the foot, 69 pages are in holograph in the the same hand (but with slight changes of style over time), two leaves have apparently been removed but the entries are sequentially numbered, and thus complete onto itself.

The manuscript record of 300 numbered births by a midwife in the West Midlands of England. All records up to number 205 are noted in five lines of detail recording the date, name and address of patient, whether the child lived or died, length of labor, time of the "third stage of labour" (or the expulsion of the placenta) and any complications arising during the birth.

December 26 1836 95

Honour John. Coleys in the Row Wood

Filie hoc iij P M

In labour 2 days - Tuty with face  
to the Pubis which after very severe  
pains of several hours duration was  
born & she recovered Membranes  
ruptured 2 days before delivery

Pl 1/4

12 Child

December 28<sup>th</sup> 1836 96

Butlers D<sup>r</sup> Averend —

Filie hoc viij P M

In labour 2 days Membranes  
ruptured 2 days before delivery The  
labour was rendered laborious owing  
to the rigidity of the os uteri which was  
not relieved by T. S nor the usual me-  
dies except by patience, at 11 o'clock  
delivered & she was near convalescent. When  
she took improper food & was carried  
off in a few days — 1<sup>st</sup> child

An example reads:  
"January 14th 1836,  
Altwood, Mrs,  
Edmunds Buildings, 5  
Ways. Filie hoc x AM.  
In labour 24 hours.  
Membranes ruptured  
6 hours before delivery  
- the hand & arms  
protruding into the  
vagina - Hannah Hourel  
sent for me & after  
some difficulty owing  
to the rigidity of the  
uteri, I introduced my  
hand & brought down  
the feet - there were no  
pains having cleared  
immediately after the  
evacuation ... both alive  
& did well. 10th child".

December 24<sup>th</sup> 1836 97

Jones Mrs — Bearmore

Fili hoc vijs Am <sup>opposit pits</sup>

In labour 8 hours — Venty, Membr.

ruptured 10 minutes before delivery —

Placenta 10 minutes — 3<sup>rd</sup> Child

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January 14<sup>th</sup> 1837 98

Jones Mrs widow Barnuly Dr Bearm

Fili hoc vj Pell

In labour 12 hours Venty —

Membranes ruptured 10 minutes before

delivery, Placenta 10 minutes 5<sup>th</sup> Child

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January 26 1837 99

Perry Mrs — <sup>Lin Colley</sup>  
Fili hoc v Am

In labour 8 hours membranes

ruptured 1/2 an hour before delivery

Venty — Placenta 10 minutes no

hemorrhage — 4<sup>th</sup> Child

The final 95 entries are recorded on one line or less and take up only four pages of the entirety. Locations include Cradley Heath, Dudley Wood, Islington, Cadley Common, Colley Gate, Birmingham, and others, all in the West Midlands. One birth is recorded at the "work house".

Although the identity of the midwife isn't explicit, presumably she could be identified by someone more diligent than us. A fascinating insight into women undergoing childbirth in uncertain circumstances.

[BTC#400778]

February 1837 102

Roberts Mrs. by Sun Overend

Liliu hoo viif, Am

In labor 12 hours - In labor

12 hours - 6 months Child

lived 8 hours - brought on

by an attack of influenza

recovered - 4<sup>th</sup> Child

February 8<sup>th</sup> 1837 103

Dotson Mrs. Libbets Row

Liliu hoo xif moete

In labor 12 hours - Vertex

presentation, membranes were

ruptured 5 minutes previous

to delivery - Placenta came

away 10 minutes after the birth

of the Child - no Hemorrhage

she recovered