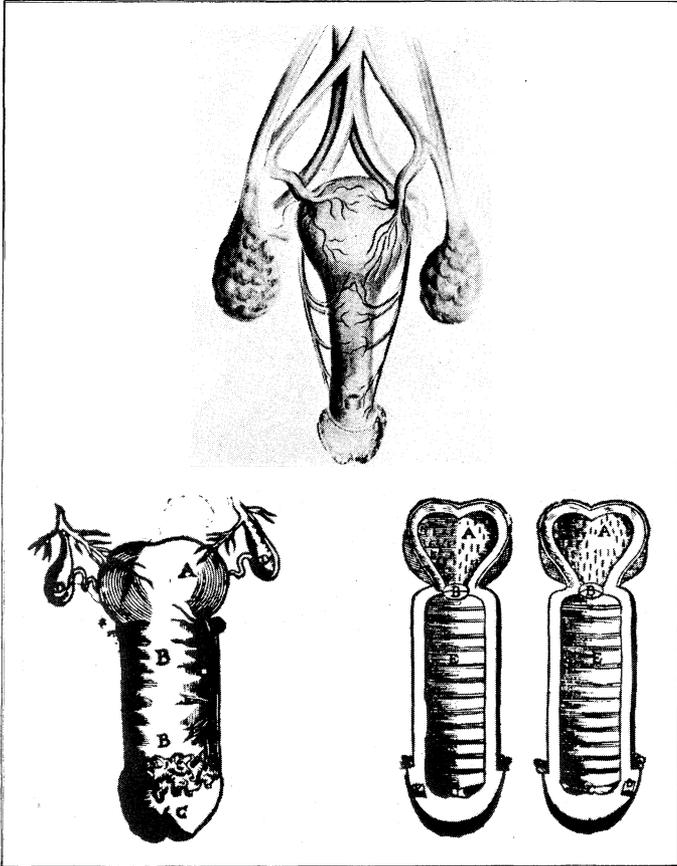


Medical Nightmares

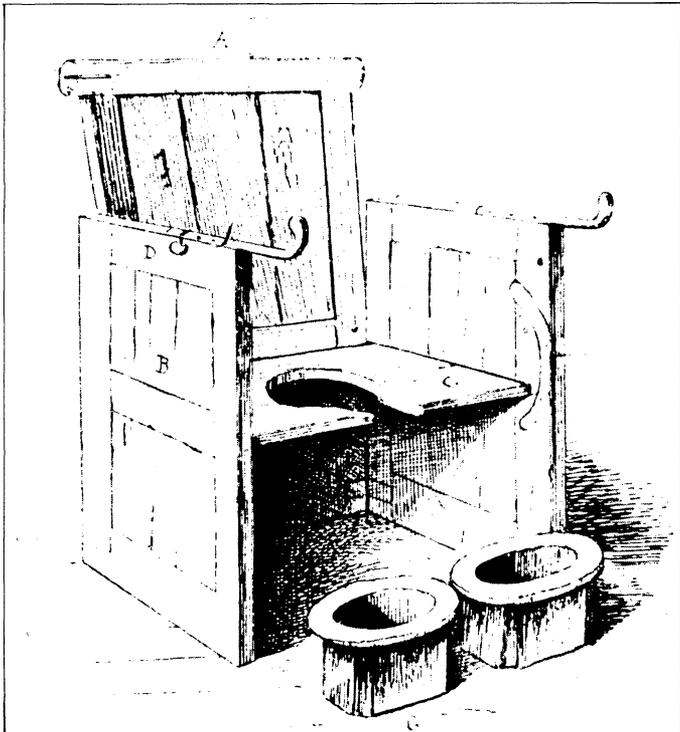
Comments by Judith Posner



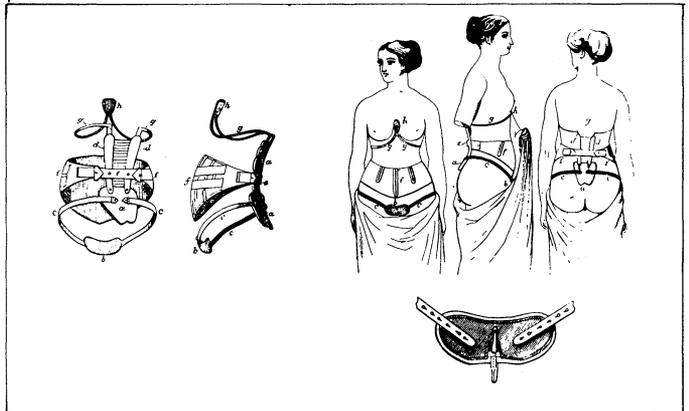
These humorously inaccurate 16th century anatomical representations of female genitalia reveal the fact that the male medical profession was only able to conceptualize about the female form in male terms.



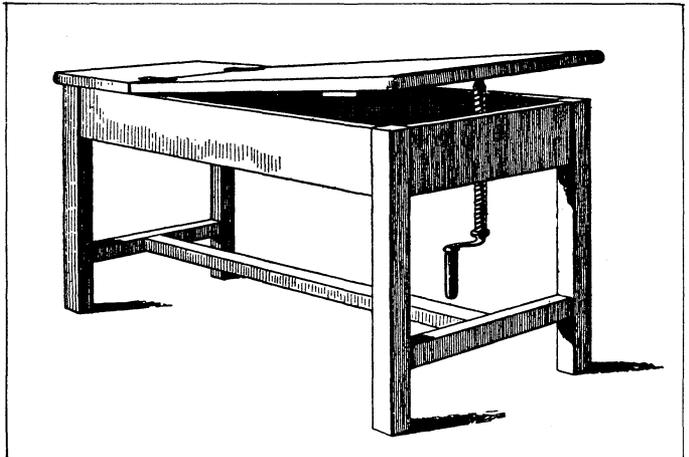
St. Agatha, protectress of the breast, was tortured and had her breasts amputated when she resisted the sexual advances of an important male politician.

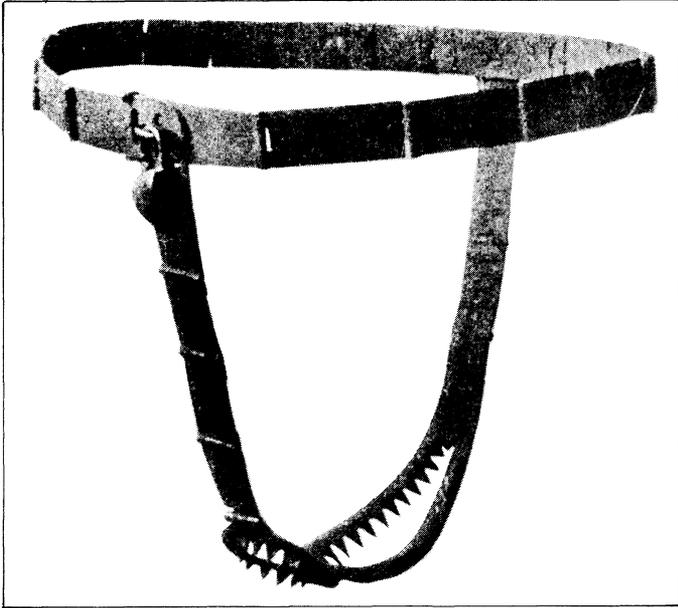


All of the illustrations in this section are from *Iconographia Gyniatrix: A Pictorial History of Gynecology and Obstetrics*, by Harold Speert, M.D. (Philadelphia: F.A. Davis Company, 1973).

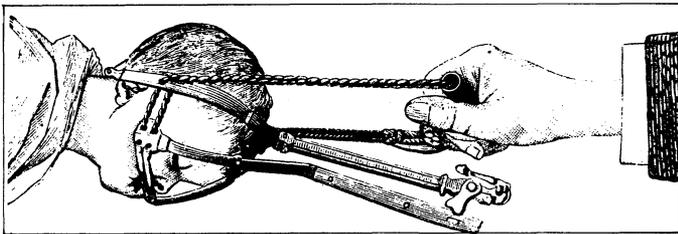


This 19th century pelvic band was meant to aid women during labour by facilitating contractions.

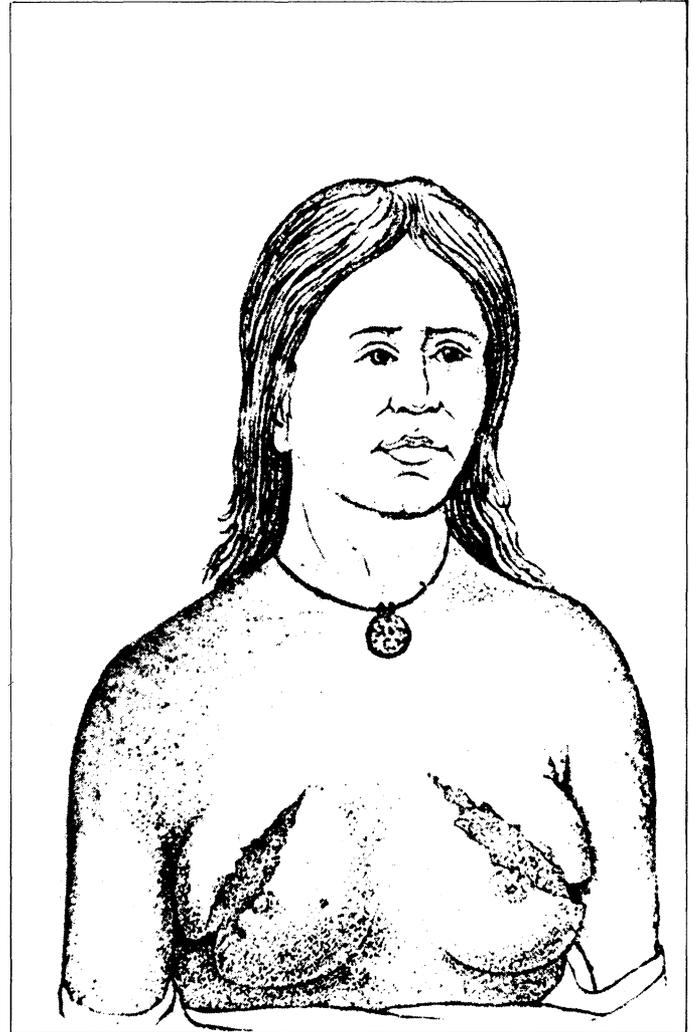




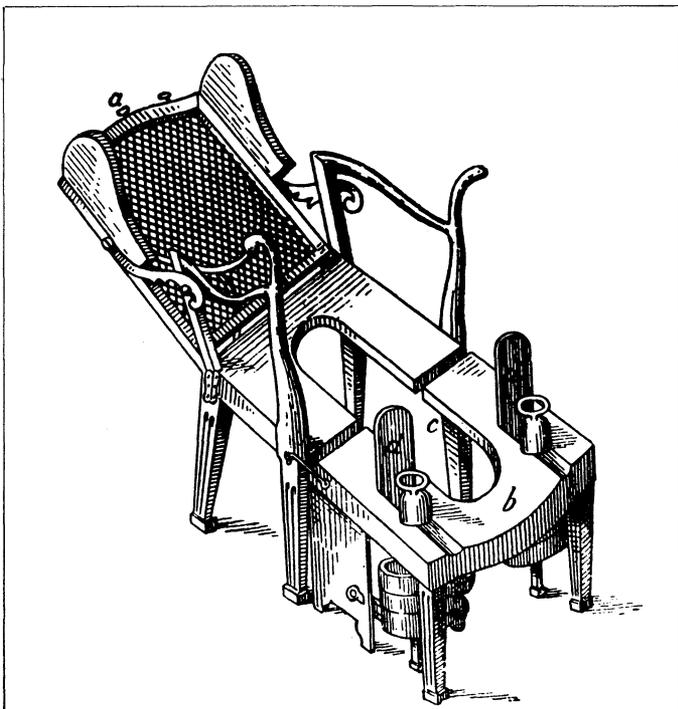
Late 19th century chastity belt (with teeth).



As this grotesque contraption (called a fetal extractor) from the mid-19th century demonstrates, women were not the only ones to suffer from masculine medical technology.



Ritual mutilation of the breasts, like mutilation of the clitoris was not uncommon historically.



As the early birth chairs of the 16th century gradually evolved into the modern delivery table used today, women lost increasing control over the birth process and became more and more dependent on doctors and technology.

