Four plates from William Smellie: A set of anatomical tables (2nd edn) 1761.

Top row: Table VI (left): Fig. 1 (upper) – the uterus in the second or third month of pregnancy; Fig. 2 (lower) – in the fourth or fifth month; Table X (right): a twin pregnancy at term. Engravings from drawings by Jan van Rymsdyk.

Bottom row: Table XVI (left): stages showing ‘...in what manner the Head of the Foetus is helped along with the Forceps, as artificial hands...’; & XVII (right): shows the second blade of the forceps (dotted) being applied before it is swung down and locked to the first. Engravings from drawings by Camper and Smellie.

The plates use semi-diagrammatic drawings from specimens and line-drawn diagrams to illustrate manipulations in normal and abnormal (preternatural) deliveries. The work is more an obstetric handbook than an atlas of anatomy. See the article on pages 65–67 of this issue.