

It is to be noted that a womman hath vij cellis or receptacles wher sperme is received. Forsoth if sperme fal in oo vessel or in many, so many chieldren bien formed as vessels receyven sperme. That if sperme fal in the right side of the matrice, it shal be a man, and this comyth bi nature of the lyver, whiche is equally hote and moiste of nature, and the galle, that is hote and drye of nature. Forsoth if the sperme of man beyng [\*] falle in the right side of the navil and be associated to the sperme of the womman strengger than hymself, lieful it may be a man, but only he shal be wommanly, as it is in sum men, as in wordis, in maners, and in many other thynges, and to so moche fieblenes mannes sperme [\*] that the chield shal be of both kyndes. If sperme falle in the lift side, it shal turne into femynyne nature, and this cometh of the mylt, havyng cold and dry nature, and of the nature of fleame, that is cold and moist. That if the sperme of the man prevale the sperme of the womman in the lift side, it may liefully torne into wommankynde, oonly shal withhold sum manly tacchis, as generaciouns, berd, and grete wordis, *etc.* And suche fieblenes may the sperme of womman bicomme that it may be made

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The woman's matrix has seven chambers where sperm can be received. Sperm can flow into one or into several chambers, and as many children are formed as chambers receive sperm. If sperm flows to the chambers on the right side of the matrix, the child will be male. This is caused by the influence of the liver, which is hot and moist in nature, and the gall bladder, which is hot and dry. If the [L weak] sperm of man flows to the chambers on the right side of the navel and is mixed with the sperm of woman that is of a stronger nature, the child will be male, but he will have some feminine qualities. This is seen in some men in their manner of speech, in their behaviour, and in many other things. Man's sperm [L may be] so weak that the child may be of both genders, i.e. a hermaphrodite. If sperm flows to the chambers on the left side, the child will become female. This is caused by the influence of the spleen, which is cold and dry in nature, and by the influence of phlegm, which is cold and moist. If the sperm of man prevails over the sperm of woman on the left side, the child will be female, but she will have some male characteristics, such as a moustache, a beard, a haughty manner of speech, and so on. Woman's sperm may be so weak that the child may be

of either kynde, as it is saide above of the man. Also if sperme  
fal in the right side of the womman, he shal be of # lifly strength,  
and if the lift side of the womman, but of the fiebilnes of the  
sperme, as it is saide, it shal become. It is to be noted also that  
if the sperme of man be strong and without debilitate or fiebilnes, it shal  
be a man, if it be fieble, a womman.

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It is to be wist and knowe that the organs of sperme bien  
veynes and arteries, in whiche bloode is turned into sperme  
in this maner. Forsoth so as it turnyth # bloode into the teates  
of womman into mylke bi sum decoccioun, so bloode is turned into  
scotorisiton, that is to say substaunce heete and humydite, havynge the  
figure of fleame in arterijs and veynes to the norisshynge of hem, and  
to norissh veynes and arteries turnyth the substaunces into sperme, þat  
the sperme therof ascendith to the hede and with grete subtilite of  
veynes and poores descendith from thens bi ij veynes and ij arterijs  
vnto the testiculis. It is to be wist for a soth that to sum man it is wont  
to come that the sperme descendyng from the hede stoppith the pooris of the  
nostrels and eeris that the vital or quickly breth may neither entre nor

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f. 30r

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116 # lifly] <f> in lifly written over <g>. 123 turnyth #] turnyth turnyth.

of both genders, in the same way as it is said above about man. If sperm is received on the right side, the boy will be vigorous, and if on the left side, it will become as it is said, except for the weakness of sperm. If the sperm of man is strong, the child will be male; if it is weak, it will be female.

The organs of sperm are veins and arteries, in which blood is turned into sperm in the following manner. In the same way as blood is turned into milk in the woman's mamillae by a process of decoction, blood is turned into a hot and moist substance which has the nature of phlegm in arteries and veins to nourish them. Nourishing them it turns those substances into sperm, which ascends to the head and descends from there through two veins and two arteries to the testicles. For some men it is usual that sperm descending from the head obstructs the pores of their nostrils and ears so that they may neither exhale or