

The following are taken from “The Secret Life of the Unborn Child”

One group of investigators believes something like consciousness exists from the very first moments of conception. As evidence, they point to the thousands of perfectly healthy women who repeatedly abort simultaneously. There is speculation that in the very first weeks - perhaps even hours - after conception, the fertilized ovum possesses enough self-awareness to sense rejection and enough will to act on it. Pg. 19

Dr. Michael Lieberman showed that an unborn child grows emotionally agitated (as measured by the quickening of his heartbeat) each time his mother thinks of having a cigarette. She doesn't even have to put it to her lips or light a match; just the idea of having a cigarette is enough to upset him. Naturally, the fetus has no way of knowing his mother is smoking - or thinking about it - but he is intellectually sophisticated enough to associate the experience of her smoking with the unpleasant sensation if produced in him. This is caused by the drop in his oxygen supply (smoking lowers the oxygen content of the maternal blood passing the placenta), which is physiologically harmful to him, but possibly even more harmful are the psychological effects of maternal smoking. Pg. 21

...few things are more dangerous to a child, emotionally and physically, than a father who abuses or neglects his pregnant wife. Virtually everyone who has studied the expectant father's role - and, sadly, so far, only a handful of researches have - has found that his support is absolutely essential to her and, thus, to her child's well-being.

That fact alone makes the man an important part of the prenatal equation. An equally vital factor in the child's emotional well-being is his father's commitment to the marriage. Pg. 30

In short, then while the external stresses a woman faces matter, what matters most is the way she feels about her unborn child. Her thoughts and feelings are the material out of which the unborn child fashions himself.

...the mother's attitude had the single greatest effect on how an infant turned out. Pg. 47

The unborn children of Cool Mothers also appeared to be deeply confused about the mixed messages they were picking up. Their mothers had many different reasons for not wanting children - they had careers, they had financial problems, they were not ready to be mothers yet - but Dr. Rottman's tests showed that subconsciously they desired their pregnancies. On some level their children picked up both messages, and it apparently confused them. At birth, an unusually large number of them were apathetic and lethargic.

...he rates a bad marriage or relationship as among the greatest causes of emotional and physical damage in the womb. On the basis of a recent study of over thirteen hundred children and their families, he estimates a woman locked in

a stormy marriage runs a 237 percent greater risk of bearing a psychologically or physically damaged child than a woman in a secure, nurturing relationship.

...he found unhappy marriages produced children who as babies were 5 times more jumpy and fearful than the offspring of happy relationships. Pg. 49-50

Suffering severe hunger in the first four or five months of gestation seemed to have the greatest effect; obesity was unusually common among those men whose mothers had been malnourished then. The team concluded that nutritional deprivation in that period affects the setting of the hypothalamic areas regulating food intake and growth.

The rates of psychiatric disorders, particularly schizophrenia, were markedly higher among those whose fathers had died before the children were born. Pg. 57

Not only did the low-birth youngsters in it tend to read more poorly than their schoolmates, the investigators also found they were more likely to be rated as "problems" or "difficult" by teachers.

Excessive maternal neuro-hormonal secretion creates an overcharged ANS which leads to low weight at birth and/or gastric disorders and/or reading difficulties and/or behavioral problems. Pg. 59

Similarly, if unhappy, depressed or ambivalent mothers bear a higher rate of neurotic children, it is because their offspring's' egos were molded in moments of dread and anguish. Nor surprisingly, without redirection, such children often grow into suspicious, anxious and emotionally fragile adults. Pg. 66

It says a great deal about our society that a man whose mother had wanted a girl only to get a boy suffered fewer appreciable long-term effects than a woman born to a mother who wanted a boy. Pg. 71

While most breech babies go on to lead perfectly normal lives, studies indicate they run a slightly higher risk of developing learning problems later in childhood. Pg. 101

Babies who have had cords accidentally caught around their necks at birth tend, as children and adults, to suffer from a higher rate of throat-related problems, such as swallowing difficulties or speech impediments. Pg. 102

In a study of 33 schizophrenic youngsters, investigators found a 40 percent rate of birth complications of all types. The rate for their mentally healthy brothers and sisters was, in contrast, only 10 percent. Pg. 104

His subjects were men who had committed violent crimes. Again he found the one common denominator to be birth history – 15 of the 16 most violent criminals had had extraordinarily difficult births. Pg. 105

... the link the study found between induced labor and sexual perversion. A person who gets sexual delight out of tormenting his partner is unbalanced generally; this was confirmed by the fact that induced labor not only correlated with sexual sadism but also with a masochistic personality. Pg. 119

Surgical delivery deprives a child of the physical and psychological pleasures a vaginally born infant experiences. Removed from his mother's uterus in an operating room, he gets no massaging or caressing. The feelings birth stirs in him often sound a discordant note. Physically, the Caesarian has trouble with the concept of space. Knowledge of his body proportions does not come naturally to him. He does not seem to know where he begins or ends physically, so he is prone to be clumsy. Sexually, the effects are manifested in a hunger for body contact. The Caesarian demands, indeed requires continual stroking and hugging. Given the way he was born, it is not hard to see where his cuddle-hunger comes from. Pg. 121