Contents

List of Illustrations	
Acknowledgements	Ĺ
Introduction: Towards Gynaecology	1
The Gynaeciorum libri	1
The significance of gynaecology	8
Authority over the womb	16
A 'century of change'?	26
1 Prefacing Women: Owners and Users	29
Prefacing women	30
Owners and annotators	42
Treating menstrual disorders	52
Sterility and the uterine mole	59
2 Medical History and Obstetric Practice in William	m Smellie 65
Smellie vs Burton: haste, error and rivalry	67
The making of a man-midwife	72
Smellie and midwives	73
The laboratory of lying-in	76
Training men-midwives	79
Looking to the past	83
Using Hippocrates	91
Smellie's sources	100
3 Guilty of 'Male-practice'? Burton's Attack on Sr	mellie 107
Disputes in action	108
Languages	114
The lithopedion of Sens	117
The case of the ass's urine	121
To cut or not to cut?	126
Beyond the wicker woman	131
The 'noble instrument'	137
Avicenna	141
Albucasis	143
Ancient instruments	151

vi	Midwifery, Obstetrics and the Rise of Gynaecology	
4	Delighting in a 'Bit of Antiquity': Sir James Young Simpson	155
	Collecting the past	158
	Defining gynaecology	164
	Simpson and the classics	172
	Performing the part both of man and woman:	
	Simpson and gender	175
	Those most bitter pains: justifying chloroform	183
Conclusion		191
Bi	bliography	195
Inc	dex	219

List of Illustrations

Plate 1	Sir James Young Simpson, by Norman Macbeth. Photograph by Iain Milne. Reproduced with permission of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.	10
Plate 2	Title page of the copy of the 1586 edition owned by Crosse and Wildberg. Reproduced by courtesy of the University Librarian and Director, The John Rylands University Library, The University of Manchester.	46
Plate 3	Bookplate of Johan Karl Wilhelm Moehsen, from the same copy of the 1586 edition. Reproduced by courtesy of the University Librarian and Director, The John Rylands University Library, The University of Manchester.	47
Plate 4	Harvie's certificate of attendance at Smellie's course. Reproduced with the permission of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.	97
Plate 5	Francis Clifton, <i>Hippocrates upon Air</i> , <i>Water and Situation</i> (London, 1734), frontispiece. Reproduced with permission of The Wellcome Library.	98
Plate 6	Spach, <i>Gynaeciorum libri</i> (1597), p. 446: selection of gynaecological and obstetrical instruments. Reproduced with permission of The Wellcome Library.	145
Plate 7	Loose sheet from William Smellie's copy of Spach. Photograph by Paul Archibald. Image from the William Smellie Collection in Lanark Library, Lindsay Institute, Lanark, reproduced by permission of South Lanarkshire Council.	146