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Vagina: Charlotte Bronte and the Masturbating Woman; 9 'Those Parts Peculiar to Her Organization': Some Observations on the History of Pelvimetry, a Nearly Forgotten Obstetric Sub-speciality; 10 'She read on more eagerly, almost breathlessly': Mary Elizabeth Braddon's Challenge to Medical Depictions of Female Masturbation in *The Doctor's Wife*; 11 Mrs Robinson's 'Day-book of Iniquity': Reading Bodies of/and Evidence in the Context of the 1858 Medical Reform Act; 12 Rebecca's Womb: Irony and Gynaecology in *Rebecca*; 13 Representations of Illegal Abortionists in England, 1900-1967; 14 Afterword: Reading History and/as Vision; Index

Sommario/riassunto

The *Female Body in Medicine and Literature* features essays that explore literary texts in relation to the history of gynaecology and women's surgery. Gender studies and feminist approaches to literature have become busy and enlightening fields of enquiry in recent times, yet there remains no single work that fully analyses the impact of women's surgery on literary production or, conversely, ways in which literary trends have shaped the course of gynaecology and other branches of women's medicine. This book will demonstrate how fiction and medicine have a long-established tradition of looking t
