

and gives rise to dyspnoea on exertion, palpitation, giddiness, and occasionally to oedema of the feet; while examination of the blood shows a moderate diminution both of red corpuscles and hæmoglobin. The appetite is poor and capricious, and the ingestion of any form of food is usually followed by discomfort, distension, and flatulence. Want of energy and physical weakness are very pronounced, and are sometimes so severe as to render the patient a complete invalid. Very slight exertion induces exhaustion, and any attempt at physical exercise is followed by complete prostration. There is also great difficulty of mental concentration, and many persons complain bitterly of the fact that they are unable to add up figures, to keep accounts or even to read a newspaper. Headache is a variable symptom and when it exists is chiefly felt in the early morning or before meals. Walking or even sitting upright in a chair is accompanied by uneasy sensations in the back and by vague pains in the lower abdomen, while in many cases the patient experiences a curious feeling of emptiness in the epigastrium, and the contents of the abdomen seem as though they were "falling out." The bowels are always constipated, and not infrequently the administration of an aperient is followed by partial collapse. These varied sensations are always relieved when the recumbent posture is assumed, and the comfort that is experienced by remaining in bed probably accounts for the habits of invalidism which are exhibited by so many sufferers from gastroptosis. Splashing and gurgling during respiration, like that met with in vertical displacements of the stomach, are frequently present.

Loss of flesh is a prominent and disturbing feature of the complaint, and the emaciation may attain the same degree as that met with in diabetes or carcinoma of the stomach. It is usually found, however, that the loss of weight is very irregular, sometimes amounting to one or two pounds a week, while at others it remains stationary for several weeks in succession. The first indication of a restoration to health consists in a deposition of fat in the mammary region and an increase of elasticity of the skin, after which the body weight undergoes steady augmentation. Most patients complain of constantly feeling cold, despite the excess of clothing which they affect, and inspection of the extremities shows that the hands, feet, nose, and ears are cold and clammy and present a bluish color. It is also noticeable that a northerly or easterly wind is invariably accompanied by an exacerbation of all the symptoms, and that a cold or bracing climate produces a most injurious effect upon them.