

Now as regards the superficial veins, which are not seen in this case, they may in the case of an encysted tumor become prominent. The epigastric veins, seen as a fine network of capillaries, is due simply to absorption of the cutaneous fat, the vessels becoming more prominent and visible through the thinned and distended skin. This condition, therefore, has no diagnostic value. When, however, some of the larger veins in their course from the inguinal region upward run to the hypochondriac and axillary regions, or even up to the clavicles, anastomosing with branches of the axillary, internal mammary and intercostal veins, the impediment to the circulation may be of several kinds: in the heart, the trunk or large branches of the inferior cava. Pregnancy, large tumors or coagula causing obstruction in any of these vessels will throw the circulation into the superficial veins.

Movement on respiration often gives us information in these cases. In the case of an ovarian cyst, on deep inspiration the tumor may be seen to rise and fall. In ascites this characteristic sign does not occur unless a coil of intestine is much distended and moves with the diaphragm, but percussion will discover the error.

In the case of an ovarian tumor, percussion would give us a dull note in front and clear at the flanks. In ascites, a clear note in front and dull in the flanks, and these signs would alter with change of position of patient. It will also change with the degree of pressure exerted on the part percussed, and with the height to which the shoulders of the patient have been elevated. In both we get fluctuation, which in the case of ascites varies with the position of patient. In the case before us we can obtain no such sign.

We are now reduced, as you see, to pretty narrow limits as regards diagnosis; to clear up matters we will anæsthetize the patient and employ the bimanual method. Now, gentlemen, we find that the supposed tumor has entirely disappeared, and that the enlarged abdomen has become as flat as can be. The uterus I find measures 5 cm., and no evidence of a pelvic tumor or other abnormal condition. We will now withdraw the anæsthetic and