

disease, and is discussed at p. 15. Auscultation is here of much less importance, and is referred to at p. 19.

1. **Aspect and Surface Markings.**—(a) **Colour:** Pigmentation is seen in pregnancy, chiefly located along the linea alba. The yellow colour of jaundice, that of pernicious anæmia, cachexiæ of different descriptions, and the various colour abnormalities mentioned on p. 284, may be observed in this region. (b) **Enlarged Veins:** A considerable enlargement of superficial veins in the neighbourhood of the umbilicus (the blood current directed away from that point) indicates an obstruction to the blood-return in the portal circulation, the most probable causes being cirrhosis of the liver or thrombosis of the portal vein near its entrance into the liver. A radiating arrangement of the veins, with the umbilicus as a centre, is occasionally seen under the above circumstances, and is known as the *caput Medusæ*. When the veins are more definitely situated at the sides of the abdomen, and when the blood current in them is upward, the cause is obstruction of the inferior vena cava. A slight dilatation of these superficial veins might be the result of moderate compression of the vena cava (e.g., ascites), while a more marked enlargement of the veins would indicate more serious obstruction, as thrombosis of the vena cava or the pressure of tumours. (c) **Umbilicus:** A retracted umbilicus is seen in fat abdomens and in œdema of the abdominal wall. It is flattened and stretched in ascites, but projects in pregnancy and hernia. (d) **Lineæ albicantes** are seen as whitish streaks (reddish when recent). They indicate a considerable and prolonged stretching of the skin, as occurs in pregnancy, tumours, ascites, and excessive fat. In addition to their invariable occurrence in multiparæ, they are seen on the abdomen, thighs, and axillary folds of stout persons. (e) **Eruptions** of various exanthemata and other skin affections may be found on the abdomen, but, with the exception of typhoid spots, are not specially likely to occur here (see p. 366).

2. The **Shape** of the abdomen often conveys information as to the nature of morbid conditions. A **flattened shape**, bulging at the sides, is characteristic of moderate ascites. If a large quantity of fluid is present, a **general rounded swelling** and protuberance of the abdomen is found. Retraction in the epigastric and umbilical regions (the **scaphoid** or **boat-shaped abdomen**) is seen in cases of meningitis and of cerebral tumour; also in colic, especially in that due to chronic lead-poisoning. **Swelling** or **bulging** of one or