

measurement at the level of the root of the nose and the external occipital protuberance. The circumference of the head at nine months should be about seventeen inches, at twelve months about nineteen inches, at twenty years, twenty to twenty-one inches ; after these years a circumference of nineteen inches is too small.

*Alimentary system.*—The liver is normally large in children, and usually reaches at least half an inch below the costal margin. The spleen is frequently enlarged in infantile diseases. It is best made out by palpation, the hand being passed across the abdomen from right to left. By depressing the finger tips opposite the eleventh interspace, the edge of the spleen, if it be enlarged, may be felt, as it descends during inspiration.

Inspection of the *stools* should never be omitted. A healthy infant on the breast or bottle only has about three stools daily and they should be of the colour and consistence of beaten up-eggs. Any alteration in frequency, colour or consistence should be carefully noted. A stool like putty shows intestinal indigestion. A green stool will follow colic. It is called the chopped spinach stool.

*Circulatory system.*—The apex beat is higher than in the adult. Usually it is in the fourth intercostal space just outside the mammary line. The general contour of the *præcordia* is often altered in children after heart disease, more so than in adults. The pulmonary second sound in a young child is normally somewhat louder than the aortic, and if permanently louder is accentuated. The aortic second is accentuated, if it be as loud as the pulmonary. Remember that hæmic bruits are rare in young children, while congenital bruits are very common. The cardiac rhythm is, even in health, irregular.

If you desire to examine the blood of a child it can easily be obtained by twisting a piece of woollen thread round the thumb, not too tightly, and then with a triangular needle puncture at the root of the nail.

In respiration, a child uses its diaphragm much more