

*Diagnosis.*—Gastroptosis, as a rule, may be said to be a composite disease, as the displacement of the stomach is usually accompanied by some other organic or functional gastric disturbance. The diagnosis of the displacement itself is easy. The condition is suggested by loss of weight, weakness, indigestion, neurasthenic complaints, relaxation of abdominal muscles, and ptoses of other abdominal viscera, and is definitely determined by observing the position of the lesser curvature lower than normally in the abdomen. Having determined the presence of the displacement we should examine the patient with the object of determining the presence or absence of gastric affections, which are frequently associated with gastroptosis, such as perversions of gastric functions and gastrectasis. We should also remember that the stomach in its displacement is liable to the same diseases as it is in the normal position. We must, therefore, determine the presence or absence of all organic and functional diseases of the stomach before our knowledge is sufficiently complete to formulate a method of treatment.

*Treatment.*—The treatment of gastroptosis is one of the most successful in gastrotherapy. Correct treatment produces almost immediate improvement in the condition of the patient, but it must be continued for a considerable time in order to produce a cure. The following are the most important therapeutic indications:

1. To replace the stomach and to support it by an abdominal band, applied to the lower abdomen.
2. To increase abdominal tension and strengthen the natural supports of the stomach.
3. To increase the capacity of the upper abdomen.
4. To correct perversions of the secretory, motor and sensory functions.
5. To regulate the bowels.
6. To improve the general condition of the patient and particularly the tone and strength of the nervous system.

The replacement of the stomach in its normal position is the most important indication in treatment. In many cases, as soon as the stomach is in its normal position, there is an immediate improvement in the condition of the digestion and of the nervous system. The gastric functions become normal and the patient quickly gains in weight. With the increase of weight there is a deposit of fat in the abdomen, which raises the abdominal tension and tends to prevent prolapse of the stomach. The increase in weight is usually accom-