

of the false pelvis and abdomen is tympanitic on percussion. This clear note extends downwards on each side to the lowest point of the flanks, and it is not altered in character by change of position of patient.

*On auscultation*, we get no bruit nor foetal heart ticking, nor aortic sounds or impulse. In fact auscultatory evidence is nil, with the exception of considerable gurgling sounds heard all over the abdomen.

Now that we have made use of the chief methods of physical diagnosis applied in such cases, we will endeavor, through the principal of "exclusion," to arrive at a correct diagnosis in this somewhat obscure case.

*Is the girl pregnant?* As to age she comes within the range, 15 to 45. She has a voluminous abdomen, but the enlargement is that of pregnancy at full term, and its commencement dates back only two months. We cannot have a nine months pregnancy with a two months history. The patient, it is true, has been for some months in a state of amenorrhœa, but her anæmia would account for that to some extent. The symmetrical rotund appearance of the abdomen on inspection gives the impression of possible pregnancy, but on auscultation, palpation and percussion the evidence of such a condition is positively nil. We may therefore safely exclude pregnancy.

*Have we an ovarian, parovarian tumor, or ascites?* When an ovarian tumor is large the abdominal enlargement is general, as it also is in ascites. But when of moderate size the enlargement is often partial—more to one side, and more below the umbilicus than above. In ascites, the flanks of the abdomen protrude and the front is flattened or normal. In a simple ovarian cyst the bulging is more in front and inclined somewhat more to one side than to the other. In ascites the change of position of patient produces more immediate change in shape of abdomen, from the ease with which free fluid gravitates to the most dependant part. In ovarian and ascitic dropsy the umbilical depression is obliterated; when, however, there is much ascitic fluid surrounding an ovarian tumor the umbilicus bulges forward. In this case you notice the normal depression is unaltered.