

I place my hand on the chest, and tell the patient to count : absence of thoracic vibration on the affected side—therefore *pleurisy*. A few seconds have sufficed to elucidate this obscure point.

Another patient has rational signs analogous to the last ; the ear detects the fine crepitation, bronchial souffle, and vocal resonance of *pneumonia*.

In each of these cases, almost without asking a question, by making directly for the most expressive signs, we arrive at a diagnosis, which is almost infallibly confirmed by ulterior investigation.

Another less common example : I see a patient with turgid countenance and livid lips, and at once think of the likelihood of cardiac disease. I place my hand under the left nipple, and feel a strong impulse and purring tremor. I at once pronounce *ossification with contraction of the aortic orifice, dilatation with hypertrophy of the left ventricle*. Duration of examination, five seconds. Wonderful, impossible ! say the attendants. Nothing more simple, however ; the purring tremor indicates surely valvular induration, the strong heaving impulse enlargement of the left heart. All cases, unfortunately, are not so clear.

Let us turn to other organs. A patient has an enlarged abdomen ; is it ascites, tympanitis, hypertrophied liver, or spleen, ovarian cyst, pregnancy, or what is it ? I uncover the belly, and say at first sight that it is ascites. And why ? because the umbilicus forms a smooth transparent prominence, and of all abdominal tumefactions, ascites alone produces this effect. A second has only been occupied in clearing up this case.

Another enlarged abdomen—dullness in the middle, resonance on the sides : it is an ovarian cyst. No ! You think it is a pregnancy ! I introduce my finger into the vagina, and find the cervix low down and deflected ; you see it is not a pregnancy.

A woman of fifty years, pale and sallow, says that her menses, which stopped years ago, have lately reappeared. She probably has uterine cancer, Touch and decide.

A young girl tells you that she has flowed copiously, the catamenia having been previously suspended for several months. Distrust metrorrhagia in young girls. Like enough this is a case of abortion, and you may find an ovum of three months in the vagina.

A sickly looking man has alternate diarrhoea and constipation ; he has pain and passes blood with his stools ; his doctor has told him that he has piles. Take care ! he probably has a cancer of the rectum. Introduce your finger and judge.

We should never have done with illustrations borrowed from the practice of every day. I have selected a few of those about which