

not the desired relief. In spite of all remedies, even enterostomy, the bowels will not act; and in from seven to fourteen days the patient dies, chiefly as the result of intestinal distention and heart failure.

**Colon.**—In the colon, the chronic variety (Hirschsprung's disease) is of the greatest importance (*Fig. 120*).

The sigmoid flexure is its favourite site; but all parts of the colon may be affected by it. The sigmoid colon, enormously thickened and dilated, may be loaded with pounds of faecal matter, and sufficiently distended to occupy the greater part of a much enlarged



*Fig. 120.*—IDIOPATHIC DILATATION OF THE COLON.

Case of a child, *æt.* 3. Symptoms of chronic constipation since birth. Note the distended coils of intestine, and emaciation.

abdomen. The condition commences in childhood; and constipation may reach such extremes that it is necessary to empty the lower bowel by manipulation from time to time. An anæsthetic is seldom required, as these patients are so tolerant as to suggest that they are considerably less sensitive than ordinary individuals, and to support the belief that their condition is, in some manner, related to nerve defects.

**Rectum.**—In the rectum the condition is described as "ballooning;" and great importance was formerly attached to this, as a