

regions, or if it has attained large dimensions, it occupies all the central regions of the abdomen; it pushes the more movable intestines aside, with the result that the sides and upper parts of the abdomen are resonant, while the central and lower parts are dull. This distribution of the percussion-sounds alters but slightly, or not at all, with change in the patient's position. An enlarged spleen pushes in a similar manner the stomach and bowels before it in its growth, causing a left-sided dullness, corresponding in area to the size of the organ. If the kidney



FIG. 5.—ASCITES.

The same patient as Fig. 4. On raising the body the level of dullness has mounted to the umbilicus.

attains a large size, as may occur in the cystic disease of the organ, or in hydronephrosis, a tumour in either flank is found. Owing to the situation of the normal kidney, it must be very greatly enlarged before it succeeds in removing the intestines which lie in front of it, and its relations to the colon retain that bowel in front of it, even when the kidney is enormously enlarged. We therefore find that moderately enlarged kidneys are palpable, but do not give a dull note on percussion; but very greatly hypertrophied kidneys are dull, except where they are crossed by the