

2. A systolic murmur, best heard near the left side of the sternum, at the level of the second or third costal cartilage; also we frequently hear a systolic murmur, whose point of maximum intensity is the region of the apex-beat. A loud, rumbling murmur, either systolic in time or, more commonly, continuous—the **venous hum**, or **bruit de diable** (see p. 444), is heard close above the clavicle, near its sternal end.

3. Œdema, chiefly of the lower extremities.

4. Certain subjective symptoms, among which may be mentioned languor and weakness, palpitation, dyspnœa, vertigo, syncope, headache, ringing in the ears.

5. Diminution in the number of red corpuscles, and in the amount of hæmoglobin and proteid substances in the blood.

While due attention must, in all cases of anæmia, be given to the general symptoms presented by the patient, it has to be borne in mind that no proper understanding of the case can be acquired without an examination of the blood. The technique of the examination has of late been much simplified, and may be carried out by the practitioner in many cases. The methods to be adopted are described in the article on Blood Examination, by Dr. Houston, at p. 58.

For clinical purposes it is usually necessary to investigate (a) the number of red corpuscles per cubic millimetre of blood; (b) the percentage of hæmoglobin present as compared with normal blood; (c) the character of the red cells—*i.e.*, whether larger or smaller than normal, whether misshapen, nucleated, unduly pale, pigmented, or otherwise divergent from normal erythrocytes; (d) the number of colourless corpuscles in a cubic millimetre of blood; (e) the varieties of white corpuscles found in a stained film, and the proportionate count of these various forms; (f) any abnormal constituent of the blood must be noted, such as micro-organisms, parasites, etc. In many affections, independent of anæmia, it is desirable to determine the specific gravity, the opsonic power, the quantity of calcium salts present, freezing and coagulating points, etc. (see Blood Examination, p. 74).

The **colour index** is the relation of (a) the number of red cells present to (b) the percentage of hæmoglobin. The number of red cells in a cubic millimetre of the blood under observation being ascertained, this number is reduced to its due percentage of a normal or standard blood; the two percentages—that of the hæmoglobin and that of the red cells present—can then be at