

ment, he may be able to resume his usual method of feeding himself.

The third case is that of this elderly man, D. H., aged 75, a laborer, who tells me that for eighteen months he has a gradually increasing difficulty in swallowing. He has wandered about, but has had no treatment other than a few bottles of medicine. I will ask him to take some water and swallow it, and you will see how he behaves. You observe that he takes a mouthful and swallows it apparently in the usual way, but at short intervals he repeats the act of deglutition as though the fluid had not gone into the stomach. He tells me that it has not gone down yet and that he feels it in the lower part of his neck. If I ask him to take several mouthfuls of water, one after the other, you notice, in a moment or two, regurgitation takes place, some mucus and saliva coming up with the water. You will agree with me at once that some obstruction exists in the oesophagus. We must proceed to determine the situation of this obstruction and, if possible, the nature of it. What means have we for this purpose? Can we inspect the oesophagus as we do the larynx and trachea? Certainly not with equal facility. Morell Mackenzie invented and used an oesophagoscope, but it never came into general use. Killian has introduced a method of direct inspection with a long straight tube, but I have not yet employed it, and I fear it is unsuitable for such a case as this one. Auscultation is another method of examination which ought to be employed in these cases. In the first place it is useful to verify the statement of the patient as to the stoppage or slow passage of the liquid, and in the second place, to determine whether an aneurysm, heart lesion, or intrathoracic tumor be present. Before proceeding with the next and most important part of the examination, careful search should be made by the stethoscope, by palpation and external inspection for any evidence of swelling or enlargement in the neck or thorax.

When the stethoscope is applied to the left side of one of the dorsal vertebrae in this man and he is asked to swallow some liquid, as he did a moment ago, a confused and continuous bubbling noise is heard which lasts for several seconds.