

IX. Investigation of Special Systems.

The Alimentary System.

I. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

(Note:—Inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation will be referred to as “the ordinary methods of examination” throughout the text).

1. **Mouth** (see General Examination).
2. **Abdomen**, by “the ordinary methods of examination”.
3. **The Regions of Various Organs.**
 - (a) *The Stomach* (by “the ordinary methods of examination”, and auscultatory-percussion).
 - (b) *The Intestines* (by “the ordinary methods of examination”, and (1) Rectal examination, (2) Vaginal examination.
 - (c) *The Liver, Gall Bladder, and Spleen* (by “the ordinary methods of examination”, and auscultatory-percussion.)

II. INSTRUMENTAL EXAMINATION.

1. **Pharynx**, by indirect illumination.
2. **Oesophagus**, (a) by œsophagoscope, (b) by sounds.
3. **Stomach**, (a) by inflation with air by means of stomach tube and bulb (for delimitation of its boundaries); (b) by gastroscope.
4. **Rectum and Sigmoid Flexure**,—by rectal speculum, proctoscope, and sigmoidoscope.

III. CHEMICAL and MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION.

(including bacteriological) of stomach contents, stools, the fluids or tissues obtained by paracentesis or exploratory incision, and by a complete examination of the blood.