

prostate gland, a whitish glandular body, situated in front of the neck of the bladder, perforated by the ejaculatory ducts of the testicle, and having many openings for its own excretory ducts. It appears to be a mucous gland.

The membranous portion extends from the prostatic portion to the bulb of the urethra; it lies immediately under the arch of the pubis and passes through the triangular ligament; it is in connection with very many veins, a sort of erected tissue above, while below it is embraced by two sets of muscular fibres, the muscles of Wilson and the muscular fasciculi described by Guthrie; it is this portion of the urethra which we have especially to deal with in cases of abscess in the perineum. It is the most complicated and exposed of any portion of this canal, and the most liable to accident and disease.

The spongy portion of the urethra constitutes by far the largest part of the urethra, commencing commonly opposite the symphysis pubis, by an expansion called the bulb, and terminating in a still larger expansion, called the glands penis. The bulb is embraced below and upon its sides by the bulbo-cavernous muscles, which are inserted into it. In front the bulb is continuous with the spongy portion of the urethra, and the angle of union with the corpus cavernosum is its anterior boundary. Immediately posterior to the bulb are situated Cowper's glands. These glands secrete mucus and open into the canal of the urethra on its under surface, passing obliquely through the spongy portion, having excretory ducts of an inch and-a-half to two inches in length. The corpus spongiosum is composed of a strong fibrous cylindrical membrane enclosing a spongy or erectile structure, a variety of the areola tissue, in which veins communicating with each other, and at last expanding into a mass of cell, which cells apparently result from the frequent anastomosis of these veins. This structure now completely surrounds the urethra, and fits with it into the lower groove, formed by the union of the corpora cavernosa penis, a structure of a similar character to the one just described, but of much greater size, in fact constituting the chief part of the body of the penis.

The urethra is lined with a mucous membrane, which extends from the meatus, lines its whole course, and is continuous with the mucous coat of the bladder, it dips down into the ejaculatory ducts of the testicle, the vesiculae seminales, and Cowper's glands; in it are several folds which open outwardly, and are called lacunæ; at the commencement of the prostatic portion, the caput gallenaginis ends with its several radiating folds; and here the