

It is scarcely necessary to mention that the testes are developed during the early months of fetal life, one on each side of the mid-line in the region of the kidney, and that the descent of these organs to the scrotum takes place during the later months, the process being completed before birth. Since, however, imperfect descent must depend upon some abnormality in the natural process, it will be well to briefly consider the manner in which this change in position is brought about.

The spermatogenic tissue of the testicle is developed from the germinal epithelium of the genital ridge, which is situated to the inner side of the Wolffian body. From the latter structure is developed the excretory apparatus of the testicle, including the *coni vasculosi*, the *vasa efferentia*, the *rete testis*, and also the cells lining the basement membrane of the seminiferous tubules. From the Wolffian duct are derived the convoluted tube of the epididymis, the *vas deferens*, the ejaculatory duct and the *vesiculæ seminales*. The rudimentary testicle and the Wolffian body soon become suspended from the dorsal region of the peritoneal cavity by a mesentery known as the *mesorchium*. This peritoneal fold is continued in an upward direction to form the *plica vasculosa*, in which the blood-vessels pass to and from the testicle, and in a downward direction, where it is known as the *plica gubernatrix*, because the *gubernaculum* here passes forwards to reach the lower pole of the developing gland.

The *gubernaculum* appears during the fourth month of fetal life, and reaches its maximum development during the sixth month, when it forms a definite cord-like structure extending from the testicle to the groin. It is at first composed of connective tissue, but, later, muscle fibres both of the striped and unstriped varieties are found, the former being derived from the muscular fibres of the developing oblique muscles of the abdominal wall in the region of the inguinal canal. Above it is contained in the *plica gubernatrix*, and is attached to the lower end of the testicle and epididymis; below, its attachment is more complex. It traverses the abdominal wall along the course of the inguinal canal, where part of its fibres blend with the muscles, but the main part of the structure is continued down